

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGE.

On 1st December, at Shanghai, HUGH GIBSON SMITH, to IVA CASEMENT MEDLEY.

DEATHS.

On 28th November, at Shanghai, JOSE MARIA CASTRO, aged 33 years.

On 29th November, at Shanghai, DAVID WIDLER, aged 49 years.

On 30th November, at Shanghai, of typhoid, Lt. CHARLES McMULLIN, R.N., H.M.S. *Iphigenia*, son of Colonel I. McMULLIN, Chichester.

On 1st December, at Saigon, suddenly, ROBERT RIDDOCK, chief engineer, s.s. *An Pho*, formerly, of the Scottish Oriental Company, aged 65 years. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 4th ult. arrived, per the s.s. *Bengal*, on the 2nd inst.; and the German Mail of the 8th ult. arrived, per the s.s. *Seydlitz*, on the 8th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Honan troops are drilling under Japanese instruction.

Chang Chih Tung is said to be colloquing with the Japanese.

Reports of buried treasure at Tientsin have set a lot of people digging there lately.

The price of charcoal in North China is reported to have increased a hundred per cent.

The new United States survey ship *Fathomer*, built at the Kowloon Docks, may undergo her trial trip on Monday.

Lt.-Col. R. G. Iremonger, of the 93rd Burma's, left for India on Dec 8th having, it is understood, retired from the Army.

By the completion of the Seoul-Fusan railway, owned by a Japanese syndicate, Seoul may be reached from Tokyo in fifty hours.

Mr. R. Riddoch, the chief engineer of the s.s. *Anpho*, died at Saigon on the 1st inst. He was 65 years of age, a native of Dorsetshire.

A man, a woman, and a child, were burned to death in a fire at Shanghai on November 27th. Starting in a firewood store, the fire gutted seven houses.

A good deal of consideration has lately been given to the case of beachcombers at Hongkong. With winter approaching, these gentlemen grow more insistent.

The officials at Nanking are wondering what to do with the employees and the stock from the Imperial silk weaving factory, shut down for "economical reasons."

Wu Ting-fang is reported to have come forward as a sponsor for the proposed Chinese national bank and proposes raising the still necessary funds in America.

No wonder China remains poor. Twelve million taels are said to have been spent on the birthday celebrations at Peking. Much of this would be grabbed and hoarded.

It is proposed to establish a glass factory in Shansi, where the soil is suitable. The sand was formerly sent south for the manufacture of porcelain, but now it is found suitable for glass making.

While the steamer *Cheong Lee* was on the way to Yau-mati on Tuesday morning, a Chinese passenger jumped overboard and was drowned. His name is unknown. The police have been unable to find his body.

The probable subjects of the examination for the Blake Scholarship (a scholarship at Queen's College presented by Chinese gentlemen) are translation from English into Chinese, Chinese into English, and composition.

The Board of Commerce having granted the working of the coal mines in the Western Hills, it is proposed to establish a likin on the coal which, it is hoped, will furnish £1a. 20,000 per annum for the upkeep of primary schools.

The *Peking Times* reports that the Board of Commerce has requested the Waiwupu to inform the I. G. and the Customs Commissioners that the registration of trademarks will not be postponed, and the work is to be proceeded with.

Forty Chinese students from Shanghai left for Europe by the Norddeutscher Lloyd s.s. *Preussen* yesterday. Tokyo is not to have them all. It is said that the Viceroy of Canton is about to send to Europe several students from the south of China.

The Waiwupu has applied to the American Minister for the rendition of a certain piece of land near the Chen Men. The *Peking Times* reports that the Minister replied that no places occupied after 1900 could be given back without a suitable *quid pro quo*.

Apropos the Russian hooliganism at Crete, the *China Review* says:—"We think that the episode has been made too much of; but there, 'any stick does to beat a dog with'; as was also the case with the Hull affair!" Adequate comment on this is impossible.

Chinese cargo carriers, suffering harsh treatment at the likin stations, have hit upon the device of flying foreign flags to protect their property. A sharp-eyed censor has pointed out to the Empress that this will tend to make foreigners popular, "therefore," it should be stopped.

The chief events of the week have been the laying of the foundation stone of the Macao cathedral, and of two Roman churches at Kowloon: the V.R.C. regatta, in which the Canton men carried off most of the prizes: several lectures by public men: a shocking murder in which three European beachcombers were implicated: numerous fires: and several Masonic installations.

The Sherwood Foresters left for Singapore on Dec. 7 by the transport *Avoca*. The detachment which had been stationed here was paraded at headquarters shortly after one o'clock. The men looked very smart in red tunics with white facings, blue trousers with the red stripe down the side, and khaki helmets with a green stripe, while the officers wore the full blue uniforms. His Excellency Major General Villiers Hatton inspected them shortly after two o'clock immediately previous to their embarkation.

The *Eastern Times* learns that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has recently sent up to Peking a long memorial concerning the reorganisation of the three Manchurian provinces of Fengtien, Kirin, and Heilangchiang. The gist of this memorial is as follows:—(1) Change the status of the three provinces, appointing over each of them a Governor, a Treasurer, and a Judge with Taotais, prefects, district magistrates, etc., etc., and a Viceroy over all. (2) Reorganise the troops on the Japanese model, namely, an active army and a reserve. (3) Introduce gendarmes. (4) Open additional ports to international trade. (5) Establish a Government bank in Mukden and issue bank notes as legal tender, to be current only in Manchuria, and (6) Establish a department of foresting and fishing companies on the Yalu and Sungari rivers.

CHANG-CHI-TUNG AND SIR ROBERT HART.

(Daily Press, 3rd December.)

The text of CHANG CHI-TUNG's memorial to the Throne in criticism of Sir ROBERT HART's memorandum on taxation in China has been published in the *Shen-pao*, and a translation of this interesting document has been given by our Shanghai morning contemporary. We have already dealt with the summarised version of its contents, and expressed our regret that an official who has in many instances shown, not only remarkable intelligence and discrimination, but who has exhibited a fair and proper spirit in dealing with foreigners, should now commit himself to expressions of opinion that are to a great extent retrograde and not a little mistrustful of foreigners. With the text of the memorial before us, it may be worth while to review it at greater length. Unfortunately His Excellency's pronouncement is tainted throughout by the entirely mistaken idea that the Inspector-General of the Imperial Maritime Customs is animated rather by a desire to wring the last cent in the shape of taxation out of the country for the benefit of the Imperial Treasury without any regard for the weal of the people. He says:—"What I fear is that Sir R. HART's plans will lead foreigners to look with greedy eyes on our supposed wealth. They will quickly form cunning plans to obtain control over our sources of revenue. Our system of government will be thrown into confusion by many ambitious foreign schemes. It is not only HART that is to be feared." And again, in his concluding paragraph, His Excellency CHANG adds:—"The memorandum of HART is empty and wanting in truthful statement." Now this is, we unhesitatingly assert, a great injustice to the Inspector-General. No country has ever been more loyally served than has China by Sir ROBERT HART. He has always set the interests of China before everything, and while he has striven, in the first place, to secure to the Imperial Government the revenue due to it, he has never lost sight of the well-being of the Chinese people, and has repeatedly made suggestions for the improvement and increase of products and the promotion of trade. The memorandum that has called forth CHANG-CHI-TUNG's vehement denunciation was drawn up solely in the interests of China, and with no eye to the advantage of foreigners. If the latter have any reason to find fault with Sir ROBERT HART it is that he considers them too little, and invariably makes their interests secondary to those of his employers. We are indeed surprised to find any Chinese critic ready to ascribe to the Inspector-General the design of exciting the cupidity of foreigners by any betrayal or *exposé* of Chinese wealth. The Chinese Government are, fortunately, well aware of these facts, and the somewhat intemperate remarks of CHANG will find, we believe, no endorsement in Peking.

Had the Viceroy CHANG CHI-TUNG confined himself to a fair and straightforward criticism of the Inspector-General's memorandum he would have done good, and not harm. There is doubtless some force in some of his remarks. When, however, he objects that Sir ROBERT HART's estimate of the taxable area of land in China is misleading, inasmuch as the Inspector-General has included the lakes, rivers, and mountains in that area, he is, we think, leaping to an unjustified conclusion. We should hardly think that Sir ROBERT HART could have made such a miscalculation. An authority like the great organiser of the

Chinese Maritime Customs is not the sort of man to have overlooked the fact that a large portion of the area of any country must necessarily be unproductive, and therefore not to be brought into the taxpaying net. On the other hand, he may, as CHANG CHI-TUNG alleges, have calculated on too large a fiscal yield. His Excellency objects to Sir ROBERT's suggested rate of taxation, and also to its being applied equally to all land. He points out that in the South-eastern provinces, where land is very productive, the tax is now more than 200 cash per *mow*, but in other provinces, where the land is poor and the produce small, they do not and could not pay such a sum. Moreover, the *mow* varies in area. In some districts, he says, it is 240 *kung*; in others, it is 360 *kung*; while in yet others, it is 720 *kung*. These variations are, of course, to be taken account of, and would be in any well-considered new scheme of taxation. In pointing them out CHANG does service, and contributes to discussion of a question that is admittedly a large one. When, however, the Viceroy proceeds to say:—"It is impracticable to obtain uniformity in returns from various provinces. Another cause of diversity is concealment of the true areas of farms. Rich proprietors hector and bribe, and the amount of their dues is settled by a compromise. Poor proprietors occupy mountain land, or land bordering streams; the land measurer may require the same tax as from land better situated. The occupiers are angry; sometimes they strike the officers and destroy the tax office. The estimated tax cannot then be collected," then he argues from the true Chinese official point of view. But with patience, perseverance, and absolute fairness all these obstacles can be overcome, without either causing riots or even creating a sense of injustice. These difficulties were encountered in the registration of titles and the survey of the land in the New Territory, but they were all peacefully overcome, though at a great expense of time and trouble, owing to the involved claims made, and the landowners are now more than satisfied with the result, which has been incidentally to increase the value of their property, in some cases materially.

The counter proposals made by CHANG CHI-TUNG are not very important, but some of them may be considered by the Imperial Government. After laying it down that it is the duty of all the Governors and Viceroys to adopt methods suited to the conditions of each province to ensure a larger collection of money so far as it can be obtained without creating new taxes, he goes on to say:—"The amount must not be oppressive nor the procedure plainly worn-out and one-sided. Certainly the method should not be an enormous addition to the land tax to the neglect of other sources of revenue. Let there be cutting down here and there. Let each region be made to produce that which it is adapted for. Let all unite their strength to raise what is required. Although an incredibly great addition to the revenue is not to be thought of, yet, little by little, an ounce here, a catty there, inch by inch, and foot by foot, a substantial result may be fairly expected." All this is very fine, but it is little good generalising in this manner. If His Excellency had said boldly that little could be done in the way of increasing taxation on land, but that more accurate measurements might be taken, and economy exercised in the collection of the revenue, special care being taken to prevent leakage, we might have agreed with him, but he has no really reasonable alternative to propose to Sir ROBERT HART's suggestion. His

memorial is full of repetition, and it is difficult to criticise what is only a reiterated deprecation of what he terms revolutionary propositions. His Excellency makes one admission which serves to support the Inspector-General's memorandum. He says:—"In every province some prefecture or district may have a new piece of land brought under cultivation, land without an owner, quietly ploughed and sown without the knowledge of the magistrate. For many years such land has paid no taxes. Proof can be had, and the amount of additional revenue may very well be considerable." If this is the case, then has there been great remissness on the part of the officials, and doubtless great rascality. It shows how badly a complete reform in the system of taxation and of its collection is needed. The Viceroy practically admits that the Treasury is systematically defrauded, but he does not say what proportion of the revenue is diverted therefrom. There would probably be no necessity for any increase in taxation if the taxes were only honestly collected. The mass of the people are very poor and cannot afford to pay any material increase of taxation. What the country suffers from most is the swarm of official drones who fatten on the honey amassed by the industrious peasants. They should be relieved from the burden of maintaining superfluous officials, who, being insufficiently paid, squeeze and rob wherever opportunity offers. The Government should encourage the working of mines and foster the promotion of new industries. Finally they should, with as little delay as possible, adopt the scheme propounded by Professor JENKS for a uniform national currency on a gold basis, and thus prevent China being made a dumping ground for the world's excess of silver and hampered in the payment of her indebtedness to foreign Powers. Such remedies cannot, as CHANG CHI-TUNG tries vainly to make out, be either classed as unwise finance or clever novelties. They are plain remedies for the ills that China now suffers from, not in any way likely to provoke insurrections or work mischief; and it is devoutly to be hoped that the Empress Dowager and her advisers will resolutely refuse to be scared by such transparent bogies as those raised by CHANG CHI-TUNG.

LI HUNG CHANG'S ALLEGED TREACHERY.

(Daily Press, 5th December.)

The remarkable letter written by the late LI HUNG CHANG, with which we recently dealt in this column, has been regarded very differently by our Shanghai contemporary, the *Herald*. There is, of course, room for differences of opinion on most subjects; but we have to confess that a study of our contemporary's comments on this letter leaves us in some bewilderment. In that now famous communication unearthed by the *Times*, LI HUNG CHANG begged Yung Lu to carry on the policy of letting Russia alone in Manchuria until the anticipated war with Japan ensued, and then to side with the winning Power, whichever it might be. Our contemporary admits, as we did, the accuracy of LI HUNG CHANG's prevision, and the shrewdness of the man; but professes to see, in this very letter, evidence in support of the theory that its writer "sold China to Russia." The chief point of the letter lies in the sentence, "Thus we shall get back Manchuria," and we are quite unable to understand how our contemporary can make that square with its idea that the deceased statesman was selling

China. To use a colloquialism, it was Russia that was being sold. Our contemporary says "the Russian Minister at Peking . . . succeeded in persuading the moribund Earl to send the following letter"—the "following letter," it will be remembered, stating plainly that in the event of the Japanese gaining sufficient advantage "we can join with the latter and help them to drive the Russians out." If LI HUNG CHANG was sincere when he wrote that, and our contemporary says "he knew when he wrote it that the hand of death was upon him," the insincerity seems to rest with the Russian Minister, who, according to our contemporary, "succeeded in persuading" him to write it. The *North China Herald* expresses great faith in the authority of "the Foreign Editor" of the *Times*, who "penetrated the true character and aims" of LI HUNG CHANG better than anybody else. Surely, however, the letter speaks for itself, and cannot carry the construction put upon it by our contemporary. Whatever his methods, the aims of LI HUNG CHANG in this matter appear correct. The only point of our contemporary's comments with which we agree is that in which they repeat our previously expressed opinion that LI HUNG CHANG was wrong in attaching any value to Russian gratitude. Our contemporary seems determined to see duplicity in that letter. A little disingenuity there may be, in his assumption that Russia might win the inevitable war, for we are quite willing to believe that the man whose shrewdness stands out so conspicuously in the letter had some inkling even then of the surprises that Japan had ready for the legions of the Tsar. It would, apart from such inkling, have been quite in keeping with the characteristic Chinese conceit for him to calculate as footballers do sometimes, that if A team beats B, and B beats C, then A will also beat C. Japan had beaten China: she would also beat Russia.

Our contemporary styles the late diplomat "the man who sold China," but in the same sentence points out that the sale was not completed, "owing to the patriotic opposition of the Yangtze and Southern Viceroy." LI HUNG CHANG regarded them as stupid, misunderstanding patriots, and we are still inclined to adopt his view. It is exceedingly likely that "all the high Chinese officials," our contemporary, and the *Times*' "Foreign Editor," who call LI HUNG CHANG traitor, and publish a letter that seems to prove he was not, are also misunderstanding the matter. If all those high Chinese officials referred to by our contemporary continue, in face of this letter, to believe him false to his country, we are sorry for the country whose affairs they presumably administer. It should rehabilitate him, even in the eyes of the *Times*, which fortunately vouches for the letter. Even in the wily, double game he played, the duplicity of which our contemporary condemns, LI HUNG CHANG was true to the traditions of his nation. "HUAI NAN TSZE, prince of Kuang Ling," in the "History of Great Light," says "force can only be successful in combating what is weaker than itself . . . but weakness can overcome what is far stronger than itself." If we read on, we learn that by "weakness" is implied such diplomacy as LI HUNG CHANG outlines in this posthumous letter of his. "It is always the man who does a thing for the first time who has the difficulties to contend with . . . ; the pioneers are simply the target on which those who come after them practise shooting." That is Chinese gospel, so to speak, and LI HUNG's letter is permeated with it. It is, as our

contemporary says, characterised by cunning and duplicity, but it is certainly not, as our contemporary states, one-third "shortsightedness." "The best public opinion in China" must admit, on the contrary, that what LI HUNG CHANG foresaw has come about. We are afraid that our contemporary must have read the letter very superficially. They say that "solid arguments brought LI HUNG CHANG openly to the side of Russia." We say this bombshell of a letter must alter our estimate of the man. It certainly shows that Russia was getting a sorry return for her "solid arguments," and it indicates that LI HUNG CHANG was no intentional traitor to his own country.

BARBARISM.

(Daily Press, 7th December.)

The tiresome question "Are the Japanese people barbarous?" still continues to be asked; and more tiresome still, there are people who will, with misdirected enthusiasm, persist in answering it in a certain way. The new editor of the *Monthly Review* has permitted one of these apologists to commit various indiscretions in that usually sober and safe magazine. The contributor, who signs the article "X," has more insight into things Japanese than into human nature. He admits the massacre by Japanese of three hundred thousand "Christians," which "seems to sully for ever the fair fame of Japan"; but argues that for their aggressiveness they deserved all they got. The Japanese Government's order in 1825, viz.: "In case there be any foreign ship approaching the coast of Japan, the officer in charge need not ask the reason why they have come, but should fire at once on such ships," is also admitted. That, he says, was because "in 1806-07 and following years the Russians attacked and raided Japanese islands in order to frighten them into subjection, and such was their brutality that, though all foreigners were hated and despised, the Russians were most feared and most hated by the Japanese. Unprovoked murderous attacks on peaceful Japanese, and the bombardment and conflagration of many villages on the coast, were committed in order 'to open Japan to trade and to introduce civilisation,' and in a famous declaration the Russians promised that they would return and ravage the coast of Japan year by year until the country was opened to trade." In view of that, the subsequent murder of three Russians in Japan was "but natural." The other murders were mistakes: "the Japanese masses could hardly be expected to discriminate between the Russians . . . and the British." They were "revenged by the European Powers . . . with incredible and unpardonable severity." The case of Mr. RICHARDSON, the Shanghai merchant, cut down by a retainer of a Satsuma prince, was due to the murdered man's "stupid and wilful provocation" in not getting off his horse and kowtowing while the procession passed. The attack on foreign shipping which brought about the international bombardment of Shimonoseki, that too, according to "X," was a mere act of folly, and did "no serious damage." Showing how Japanese jurisprudence has reformed in the humane direction, "X" quotes the barbarous penal laws of old England; and then goes on to describe *hara-kiri* as "a proof of the spirit of heroism, rather than of barbarism." As, he puts it, "any coward can take poison or shoot himself; it requires the nerve and spirit of a hero to commit *hara-kiri* deli-

berately, slowly, and without flinching." Finally, the tactful apologist of the *Monthly Review* tabulates the average number of suicides per annum per million inhabitants, showing that, in this "barbarous" feature, France, Denmark, Switzerland, and Germany are worse than Japan, the respective numbers (as given) being 246, 238, 233, 206, and 177. These things are quite typical of the tendency of enthusiasm to prove too much. The suicide statistics are, as most readers will recognise, directly antagonistic to the writer's thesis that the charge of barbarism against Japan has no foundation in fact. The more advanced the state of civilisation, the more numerous usually are the cases of *felo de se*. This scarcely needs to be demonstrated.

Barbarism is the antithesis of civilisation. It means individualism, ignorance, the lack of that law, and order, and culture, and self repression, that a civilised community is supposed to possess. It is often used to denote cruelty, ferocity, and so on, although these qualities are not confined to barbarous races, as recent events have proved. Taking the word in its stricter meaning, the allegation that the Japanese are a barbarous or barbarian nation is absurd. Their civilisation is older than our own, their apprenticeship to the arts of peace much more extensive. It is nonsense even to suggest that their European veneer has added much to their civilisation. Their social manners (that comportment which denotes the gentleman) are superior to ours, and more widely diffused. Coming to the question of the sanctity of life, which appears now to be the standard of civilisation as we understand it, they are, temperamentally, on a footing with Europeans. Until recently, their penal code was as ours used to be, very severe; and as our circumstances then were, so their similar environment, lasting longer, has prolonged the period during which life *per se* is lightly regarded. Temperamentally, we contend, all men, however civilised the community that contains them, are barbarians, for barbarity is but "nature, red in tooth and claw." Feudalism held life cheap in England, just as it has done in Japan. Armed men on the high roads, the naked blade gleaming on every hand, makes men familiar with the machinery of murder; and familiarity, we are told, breeds contempt. Continued or frequent observation of such matters brutalises the observer. Accustomed only to the modern implements of war, which kill at a distance, our acquaintance with their results in action is also a distant one. It is only when some soldier, writing home with simple vividness of that he has seen or felt, or when some literary genius gifted with imagination portrays the reality of blood and wounds, that we understand, and shudder, being civilised. The keen sword is more impressive; but men cannot go on shuddering for ever. From callousness to the blade it is only a step to callousness to the blood. This, subject to refutation, is our theory of the different estimates that different races put upon the value of life. At bottom, we repeat, there is no real difference between East and West, in this respect, and the charge of barbarism against Japan needs neither proof nor disproof. The Japanese soldier in the company of his parent or his child is gentle as the gentlest. With the foe in front, and weapon in hand, he is very much like his European confrère, somewhat of a savage, intent on killing. There are, unfortunately, pseudo-civilised soldiers who behave like savages when no foe is near, as some of our east coast fishermen have lately learned.

PLANS OF THE BALTIC FLEET.

(Daily Press, 8th December.)

Many thinking people must have wondered what is the real object of Russia in bringing out the Baltic fleet to Eastern Asia. It is unlikely that the arrival of the fleet can save the apparently inevitable capture of Port Arthur, notwithstanding the almost superhuman efforts of the garrison to delay the surrender till the arrival of the ships shall restore to Russia the numerical superiority over Japan. Vladivostok will by the time the fleet arrives be closed for the winter, and in case that Port Arthur be in possession of Japan there is no apparent place of rendezvous. So far as is at present known there is no hostile force between Japan and Suez, and after passing Aden it would seem that unless Admiral Rozhdestvensky should commit some further act of folly sufficient to compel even an unwilling British Government to interfere by force with its further progress, the entire coast of Japan will be open to its depredations; what this may mean we have sufficient warning from Russia's previous conduct. On anything like equal terms there would be no doubt as to the issue should the Russian come in contact with the Japanese fleet. But the Japanese fleet has had to bear all the brunt of sea service for the last nine months, while the Russian will arrive with comparatively fresh ships. That the Japanese will make a desperate resistance there is no doubt. But fresh ships and fresh guns count for much in such a contest, and then comes the problem what further course do the Russians propose to take under the circumstances, and supposing that they should gain a preliminary advantage. From trustworthy sources we are fortunately able to pronounce with some confidence the present plan of campaign. The first aim of Russia is in fact to gain a footing in Formosa. It is true that with the exception of Kilung, Formosa, so far as the present occupied portion is concerned, possesses no good harbour, but the Pescadores, which are not far distant, supply at least one good harbour, besides several anchorage grounds, and these it is proposed to occupy in the first instance. There are besides on the practically unexplored east coast one or two bays which may afford temporary shelter, so that the scheme is not altogether so chimerical as at the first glance it might appear. Once established in comfortable quarters in the Pescadores it is hoped that the position of affairs will be altered, and that Japan will be forced to utilise her entire naval force in guarding the Formosa Channel; thence Russia proposes operating against Japan's communications, and so to finally compel the evacuation of Shingking, and eventually of Korea. Such we learn from Russian sources is the actual plan of operations. That in the hands of an able commander such a plan, however bold its inception, would, were the Japanese taken in the first instance unawares, hold out a fair chance of ultimate success there is little doubt; and that some such scheme has suggested itself would account for the seemingly quixotic despatch of the entire of Russia's home fleet to waters where a decisive defeat would mean the crippling for a generation at least of Russia's power of offence in Europe. The information has fallen accidentally in our way, but we have no reason to doubt its perfect authenticity, and as so large issues depend on the issue of the war we feel ourselves justified in publishing it.

CHINESE PHILOSOPHERS.

(Daily Press, 9th December.)

Mr. DYER BALL apparently reflected upon the value of the Rev. E. J. HARDY's lecture on "The Religions of China" on the ground that "the lecturer had not been long enough in China to have gone into the matter thoroughly." We cannot admit that a prolonged residence in China is necessarily essential to an understanding of the Chinese classics; but having admitted so much, we have to point out that the Military Chaplain's disrespectful opinions of Chinese philosophy should be counted out for another reason. The value of his criticisms must be considered to be seriously impaired so long as he utters them from the seat of prejudice he at present occupies. His beliefs, so long as they are promulgated amongst the Chinese by missionaries, are the tenets of a rival system of thought. Quoting from the published report of his lecture, the first point to note is his complaint that CONFUCIUS did not attempt to answer such questions as "Where did I come from and where am I going?" The wonder felt by many will be with regard to the Rev. E. J. HARDY's attitude towards those two questions. What does he tell his soldier congregations? He would not insist on the need of propounding such questions unless he believed there was an answer to them. Yet what answer is possible? There is no answer to the first, and the chaplain's answer to the second is probably that it depends upon the faith of the person inquiring. The disciples of the Christ in whom Mr. HARDY believes asked the same question, and were told not to think about it, but to fix their minds on their duty in the present life. This was in essence and spirit the same answer which Mr. HARDY deprecates when coming from CONFUCIUS—"While you do not know this life how can you know about a future one?" The parable of the lilies has a wider meaning than the orthodox attach to it: it applies to theologians as much as to moneygrubbers. The lecturer's grievance against CONFUCIUS was that his teachings were concerned more with works than with faith. With some apparent inconsistency, when he touched upon LAOTSE, who is all for faith and decidedly against works, Mr. HARDY was ungenerous enough to refer to his "extravagant metaphysics." We say ungenerous, because the faith Mr. HARDY holds dear, and preaches to the troops, contains many metaphysical extravagances that the unprejudiced find harder to understand than LAOTSE's quaint ratiocinations. Fun was poked at the legends attached to the Sage, his miraculous birth, with white hair, after seventy-two years of gestation, and so on. This was not quite fair, either, when we remember how many reasons the Chinese have for replying *tu quoque*. Of his book called *Tao Te Ching*, Mr. HARDY said "Along with much rubbish, there was in it not a little that was good." How often is that remark made to bibliolaters, and how strongly they resent it. The humour of the Emperor who teased the Taoist believers in a future life, by withholding rewards they had earned, and suggesting that their reward would come in the spiritual world, also appears to have struck him. To jibe at that was like the Pot jeering the Kettle's blackness. There is no perceptible indifference in the Churches to the rewards of this world. We are often told that the errors of professing Christians should not be recalled when considering the claims of Christianity, yet the reverend lecturer had no compunction about emphasising the discrepancy between Buddhist profession and practice.

The sneer at European Buddhists was another unworthy feature of the lecture. His remark that they are coquetting with Buddhism as an excuse for not attending church suggests an unkind retort which we refrain from making. It is not an agreeable protest to have to utter, but the lecturer, unwittingly no doubt, wounded the susceptibilities of more than one reader. Hongkong is a colony of many creeds, and it would never do for us to begin to ridicule each other's dear beliefs. "Let knowledge grow from more to more; and more of reverence in us dwell." Real reverence is that which accords due respect to the faiths of our neighbours.

GOLD AND SILVER.

(Daily Press, 10th December.)

It might have been anticipated that the increase in the production of gold which has taken place of late years from the Transvaal and Klondyke mines would have had some appreciable effect upon the relative values of gold and silver and have tended to raise the range of the silver currencies. So far, however, as it has been possible to form an estimate in the matter, no appreciable effect of this kind has been produced; and the low rates of exchange in the East are still a noticeable feature and have to be accepted as an established fact. It is, of course, impossible to say whether the downward movement which at one time caused so much anxiety, and which has been the subject of so much speculation on the part of financiers and economists, has been to some extent arrested by an addition to the world's supply of gold. Upon abstract grounds, this may fairly be assumed to have been the case, but it is still an open question how far any such result has been brought about; and, what is of more importance, how far it may be looked for in the future. It is to be feared that no very marked effects can be anticipated, though at first sight it might appear that there was some hope in this direction. There is in the first place the fact that the production of silver in many American mines, which has been suspended consequent upon the comparatively low value of the metal, can be resumed at any time when a more favourable state of matters might render it profitable to work these mines again. This in itself would seem to be a hopeless obstacle against any readjustment of the relative values of the two metals. As the cost of working the mines must be paid for in gold currency, the more silver that is produced, the sooner must the point be again reached when it will no longer pay to continue the operations. Whatever the amount of available silver may be, there is always this reserve in the background, which will tend of necessity to keep down its value. On the other hand, the value of gold is enhanced by its being still—and being certain to remain—the one stable standard of value among all the most important commercial nations. In France and America, though the names of the current coins are those of silver pieces—in the one case the franc, and the other the dollar—the standard is in reality a gold one; as the gold value of these coins is fixed; and in Great Britain and most of her Colonies the currency is gold both in name and in coinage. In other countries—the last among them being our enterprising neighbour, Japan—the principle has been accepted that a gold currency is essential to sound commercial operations; and there can be no doubt that wherever it is possible the gold standard will be adopted. Thus there has been, and is likely to continue to be, a

constant increase in the demand for gold; and the value of the metal has been enhanced not merely as a consumable article of luxury, but on account of its becoming more and more recognised as the only reliable ultimate standard of value in all commercial transactions. This is in itself a source of great value to any metal. For a long period silver took this position in the East, but it has now been found wanting in stability, and the artificial value which attached to it has departed, while that of gold, as a reliable basis, has been proportionately enhanced. The latter, whether it be more or less used for articles of luxury, dental purposes, gilding, or in other ways, where (a fact which is often overlooked) it is more or less actually consumed, must for many years to come still be the metal always in demand for the purpose of reserves; and so long as it is thus used, its value as compared with other metals liable to more fluctuation must always be maintained.

Silver in the East no doubt stands upon the footing of the ultimate standard of value, but its prerogative in this respect is of a local and limited character, and cannot affect its value in relation to a gold standard, when it comes into contact with it in over-sea commercial transactions. The idea which was at one time in favour of adopting some artificial means of establishing an exchange value of the dollar or the rupee, has of late years apparently been abandoned as impracticable. At least we hear very little in respect of a controversy which was at one time kept up with considerable animation; and it may be taken that the existence of a lower average standard has been accepted as inevitable. Still it cannot be considered that the state of affairs is satisfactory. There is not any security that the exchange has touched the bottom and that there may not be further decline even from the low rates which have ruled for many years past. This state of things must always exist so long as silver remains the medium of commercial transactions; and it will be a long time before it can be hoped that a gold standard in any form will be accepted in China. This would, of course, be the true remedy; but it must be many years before any such change could be brought about, even if China were under a Government much stronger than we can hope to see. Should the Japanese, however, carry out the scheme which it is stated they have in contemplation, of introducing a gold currency, it is not impossible that the Japanese coin would by degrees obtain some kind of foothold as a medium for commercial transactions, and that ultimately the Chinese might find the advantage of following suit and adopting a gold standard for themselves. Nothing short of this would put an end to the silver trouble and the low range of exchange, which has been prevalent for so many years.

The steamer *Elchu-maru*, which left Newchwang on the 10th Nov. for Moji, reports that at 10 a.m. on the 12th a mine was discovered about seventy miles from the Shantung promontory and two hundred miles from Port Arthur. In these waters the steamer traffic is very busy, and while the captain of the *Elchu-maru* thought it dangerous to take the floating object on board, bearing in mind the recent mine explosion at Moji, he also thought it still more dangerous to leave the mine to be a danger. Finally one of the sailors volunteered to attach a rope to the mine. He jumped overboard, and having fixed the rope, the mine was towed, and ultimately delivered to the Japanese Naval authorities at a Korean port. The act of the seaman certainly deserves, says the *Kobe Chronicle*, generous recognition.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 2nd December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

WONG TAI FONG V. TAM MAN SAM.

This case, in which the plaintiff sues the defendant for \$1,000, was adjourned till Friday next.

THE MAN YUEN V. S. FERRIER.

In this case the plaintiff firm, provision dealers, sued the defendant for \$117.68, on account of provisions sold and delivered.

The defendant explained that his boy "chowed" him for \$30 a month, and he had paid the boy; the account was not his.

After hearing the evidence Mr. Justice Smith decided that the defendant was liable and gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

FUNG TSOI V. THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC
TRAMWAY CO., LD.

This case, in which the plaintiff sues the defendant firm for \$36.58, was fixed for hearing on Thursday next at 2.15 p.m.

OTHER CASES.

The following cases were fixed for Friday next:—Chan Kin (ho) v. Chan Ting On (\$500); Gunda Singh v. J. A. Silva (\$138); Gunda Singh v. J. M. Silva and another (\$80); Ngai Fook v. Wong Lau (\$95.70); Soojan Singh v. M. da Silva, Guimaraes and another (\$120); Mall Sing v. Yung Kwing Chim (\$2).

In the following cases judgment was given for the plaintiffs with costs:—The Colonial Treasurer v. Lin Sin How (\$9.25); Gujar Singh v. S. Soonderum (\$60); Pagat Singh v. M. Rahfek (\$50); The Kwong Fuk Hing v. The Sze Shun Wo (\$59.04); Chan Pak Wai v. Tsoy Tang (\$699.60); the Victoria Dispensary v. A. C. Dierchs (\$53.30); Cheang Tsun v. Li Tsun Ma (\$180).

The case of the Hongkong Butchery Co. v. H. Howarth (\$92.47) was fixed for hearing on Monday at 10.15 a.m.

In the case of the Cheong Hop firm v. The Kwong Ya Lung (\$171.59) judgment was given for \$111.59.

The case of Cheong Lee & Co. v. Dick Daly (\$59.65) was fixed for hearing on Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

In the case of The Hing Fat Cheung v. The Kwong On Lung (\$159.37) judgment was given for \$142.73.

The case of Chan Hu v. Bessie Radcliff (\$146) was fixed for hearing on Monday at 2.15 p.m.

The case of Howley v. the Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd. (\$4.50) was fixed for Tuesday at 10.15 a.m.

Monday, 5th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

HONGKONG BUTCHERY CO. v. H. HOWARTH.

In this action the plaintiff firm claimed \$92.47 and costs on account of provisions supplied through a pass-book in the name of the defendant, a storekeeper in the employ of the C. P. R. Co.

Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for the plaintiff firm; Mr. J. Hays for the defendant.

Sin Ping Un, a clerk in the employ of the plaintiff firm, said he knew the defendant, who first came to see them on the 12th or 13th August. Defendant gave him his signature (produced) and witness issued a pass-book. On this pass-book goods were supplied during August and September. Then the defendant's orders ceased for a little while. Later, the defendant, through his boy, applied for another pass-book. This was given—that was on the 29th or 30th October. Goods were supplied to that boy, the same boy, on that pass-book to the value of \$92.47.

Cross-examined—The two months' provisions paid for commenced on the 14th August till the middle of October. The accounts were rendered at the end of each month for the whole amount in the pass-book.

Mr. Hays produced a bill paid, dated the 30th September.

His Honour thought the figures looked as if they had been altered from the 10th to the 30th.

Mr. Grist said there was a mistake in the writ; the goods were supplied during November and December.

Mr. Hays having no objection, the writ was amended accordingly.

Continuing (cross-examination), witness said that it was not on the 23rd November that the boy brought him that bill produced; it was previous. Witness had threatened to sue the defendant before that.

By the Court—The supplies were stopped during an interval of six weeks between the time of issuing the first and second pass-books. He did not ask the boy why he did not go during that period. The boy brought the signed paper without being asked for it. For the firm the signature produced was sufficient; they gave supplies during November and December. It was about the 9th December that the supplies were stopped. Defendant was asked for the money, and he told the shroff to wait till his boy returned from the country.

His Honour—You ought to have brought this action a long time ago.

The proprietor of the Hongkong Butchery Co. gave corroborative evidence. Defendant had denied getting so much provisions, and said they must have been on the "boy's" account. Plaintiff went away in June and did not return for several months.

Cross-examined, plaintiff said he did not commence the proceedings before June because defendant spoke in "that way"; sometimes accounts were allowed to stand over. The account was larger than previously; the boy had said there were two or three more men messing.

The defendant denied that he authorised his boy to get goods from the plaintiff firm after September. The bill produced was in his writing, but, as a matter of fact, he had left it there on the previous month—it was a lie that his boy had brought it.

His Honour in summing up said that the defendant should have given the plaintiff firm written notice when he wished to discontinue; during the interval of six weeks he might have been away at Amoy, or sick, or anything. It was quite clear that the defendant employed the boy to go to the shop and buy goods, and there was no evidence whatever that this authority had been taken away from the boy. He gave judgment for the plaintiff firm with costs.

CHAN HU V. BESSIE RADCLIFF.

The plaintiff claimed \$146 on account of goods sold and delivered.

Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. J. Hays for the defendant.

Mr. Hays said that they would consent to judgment for \$144.50.

The plaintiff agreed to this, and judgment was accordingly given, execution being stayed till Thursday next.

Tuesday, 6th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

DR. E. J. HOWLEY V. HONGKONG HOTEL CO.

In this case the plaintiff claimed \$4.50 from the defendant company on account of the loss of an umbrella from the defendant company's office, alleging that the defendant company had not exercised sufficient care to protect him (their guest) from loss.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Mr. Brutton's office, appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. H. Haynes, manager of the Hongkong Hotel, attended to resist the claim.

Mr. Goldring said he need hardly say that the plaintiff was merely bringing this action to vindicate his own position with regard to the defendant company; if the hotel company were liable in the case of a small amount, they would also be liable in the case of a larger one.

The plaintiff, sworn, said—In October last I was residing at the Hongkong Hotel; my board and lodging there was paid by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. I am a doctor in the employ of that company, in connection with the South

African coolie emigration. I think the terms were weekly. One day in the middle of October I went in to tiffin, leaving my hat and umbrella in the dining room hat-stand. When I came out I missed them. I went down to the office and found them there. I took the hat, but left the umbrella in the clerk's custody where I found it. Next morning, when I went for my umbrella, it was not to be found. I applied to the company; some correspondence followed. Two letters were put in as evidence.

Continuing, witness said he had always been willing to point out the clerk in question.

Cross-examined—I left the dining room between 2.30 p.m. and 2.45 p.m.

By the Court—I went to the hotel on the 2nd October, and left about the 20th November.

His Honour—What were the terms?

Mr. Goldring—I do not know.

H. Haynes, in his defence said—It was a weekly account. I received the letter produced on the 7th November, to which I replied after making enquiries among the clerks. The same clerks staff the office now as in October.

Cross-examined—People sometimes hand coats to the clerk. If Dr. Howley had been appointed to a ship in the middle of a week he would only have been charged for the number of days he was actually a guest during that week. Messrs. Allen and Sunderam (clerks) take it in turn to be in the office, their duties being to allot rooms, collect accounts, give information, and keep the daily accounts; I take charge of valuables in the office safe, for which receipts are given. It is not the duty of the office clerks to take charge of umbrellas; but I know they do so frequently to oblige visitors and customers. As soon as the dining room is closed at 2.30 p.m. the Indian watchman removes all umbrellas, hats, sticks, etc., from the lobby hat-stand to the office below.

Ram Samey Sunderam, counter clerk, deposed: I have received hats and umbrellas from the watchman, but have no recollection of this one.

Mr. Goldring said that there were two questions for His Honour to consider:—(1) Did the relationship of guest exist between the plaintiff and defendant company—he submitted that it did; and (2) Were not the defendant company in fault for not exercising more care in the matter? He submitted that the Hongkong Hotel Company had not used any care at all; and that it was customary for the clerks in the office to look after goods submitted to their care. The defendant company, he submitted, would be liable, even supposing the umbrella had been taken from the hat-stand in the hall, but in this case it was in the custody of a clerk in the office.

His Honour, in giving judgment, said that it appeared that in the middle of October the plaintiff was dining at the Hongkong Hotel. That in itself was quite sufficient to make him a guest of the hotel. Judge Kennedy, with regard to a man who had lost an overcoat from a hat-stand, said, "I am of opinion that he is entitled to protection"; and this was the case of a man who merely dined at an inn. In this case, however, when the plaintiff missed his hat and umbrella he went downstairs and found them in the office. It was in evidence that the custom of the hotel was for the dining room to be closed at 2.30 p.m., when it was the duty of an Indian watchman to take hats, etc., down to the office for safe custody. Apparently this practice was followed on that occasion. Against this he had only the evidence of Sunderam, who said that things might, or might not be, left with him. He thought that under these circumstances the plaintiff was entitled to recover, because, though he took away his hat and not his umbrella, he left the latter in proper custody. If he had taken the umbrella and said to the office boy, "Please look after it," it might have been different.

His Honour thought the hotel was responsible, and gave judgment for the plaintiff, but without costs, as the amount claimed was under \$10. The plaintiff, however, was entitled to the cost of the writ, \$6 in all.

CHONG LEE & CO. V. DICK DALY.

In this case the plaintiff firm sued the defendant, who keeps a grill room in Des Voeux Rd., for the balance owing to them by the

defendant for household goods sold and delivered.

Mr. E. A. Bonnar, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, appeared for the plaintiff firm; Mr. Barlow for the defendant.

The manager of the plaintiff firm gave evidence that the defendant had purchased goods to the value of \$249.65, and had only paid \$190.

The defence was that two ice boxes supplied by the plaintiff firm were no good; the freezer did not work; there was no ventilation. When he opened them one day the smell of the meat "nearly knocked him down;" he had to throw it all away. He told the plaintiffs to take them back, and they said that they would send for them—they never did.

His Honour cut out one small item from the bill, and gave judgment for \$57.65—two dollars less than the claim—and costs.

Thursday, 8th December.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHAN KWAI FAN EX PARTE TANG TSUN L. Mr. Barlow applied for adjudication, the Official Receiver being appointed trustee.

There being no objections His Lordship made out an order.

TUK KUK CHOW EX PARTE CHIN HOK LAM. Mr. Bailey appeared for the debtor in this case and a similar order was made.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

FUNG TSOI V. THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC TRAMWAY CO., LD.

The plaintiff sued the defendant firm for \$36 58, wages due. Mr. O. D. Thomson, appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. H. W. Looker for the defendant.

Mr. Thomson explained that the plaintiff had been an employee of the defendant firm.

Mr. Looker raised the point as to whether His Honour had jurisdiction—Ord. 45, 1902, Sec. 12, related to employers and servants. There had been a great deal of trouble about that time. The ordinance was passed in order that an employer might have more summary powers. He submitted that all this question of wages had to be determined by a magistrate.

Mr. Thomson said that His Honour had power under Sec. 24.

His Honour to Mr. Thomson—You are suing for payment of certain wages, and there has been a breach of contract.

Mr. Looker said that the Company was withholding wages as fines for misconduct. The plaintiff had been fined ten days' pay for a five days' absence without leave, three days' pay for allowing another man to take the wheel for him, and other fines.

The plaintiff deposed: I was formerly employed as a driver in the Tram Co., from 1st July to 12th November. I was paid at the rate of \$6 92 per week. I was absent for a week on leave. The balance of wages due to me are \$36 58.

Cross-examined—When I entered the employ of the company I agreed to abide by the rules. There is not a rule forbidding motor men to allow others to operate the car. I have read most of the rules saying that motor men are not allowed to interfere: I have not read it before; no time. I have not read the book; I am not able to read much. On at least six occasions I had fines deducted from my wages for breaches of rules. I complained. When I joined no rule about suspension was read to me.

His Honour, as a recommendation, said the rules wanted revising. It was not stated in them what fines would be levied for acts of misconduct. The rules, in fact, ought to be consolidated and made specific. He gave judgment, nevertheless, for the defendant firm, with costs.

Friday, 9th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

JUDGMENT AND COSTS.

Judgment and costs was given for the plaintiffs in the following cases:—Gunda Singh v. J. A. Silva, \$135; Gunda Singh v. J. M. Silva and another, \$80; Soojan Singh v. M. da Silva and another, \$120; The ITsun v. Yau Chan Man, \$58.81; Tak Kee v. Tse Tsuk Ping, \$300; Yan Pun v. J. Rahamin, \$21; The Kan Tak Lung v. The Shing Tai, \$70.96; A. Cattaneo v. A. Sheffield, \$8; Gunda Singh v. Wong Yuk Lam, \$50.

CASES ADJOURNED.

Various other cases were dealt with as follows:—Wong Tai Fong v. Tam Man Sam, \$100, adjourned sine die.

Chan Kin Cho v. Chan Ting On, \$500, Friday. Kruse and Co. v. D. Joseph, \$19.90, adjourned for a fortnight.

Ritchie and Co. v. F. L. Clyde, \$177.84, to-day.

Mow Yue v. Jebson and Co., \$1,000, Friday.

Ho Chun v. Lo Fo, \$4.39, Friday.

The Po Yik firm v. An Chun Sang and others, \$264.79, Friday.

Ma Wai Nam v. The Yu Hang Cheong v. Yim Sin Man, \$167.1, Friday.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Friday, 9th December.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (HARBOUR MASTER).

TRESPASSING ON RACE COURSE.

Fu Wo, Master of licensed junk No. S. 216 H., was charged with unlawfully disobeying the lawful orders of the Harbour Master, in that he did cross the course at Yaumati Bay during the progress of a race in connection with the V.R.C. Regatta. Sergeant Boole, of the Water Police, gave evidence as to the persistence of the master to cross the course after being warned not to do so. Inspector Langley in another police pinnace had also warned him not to do so.

Lam Shan, Master of the junk, said he did not understand what the police inspector said.

By the Court:—Inspector Langley had an interpreter in Chinese, with him, but I could not understand what he said. I was going to Sham Sui Po from Hongkong. I saw the flags flying, but did not know the meaning of them.

The Magistrate found the charge proved and fined the defendant \$2.

JUNK MASTER CAUTIONED.

Cheung Wing Foo, Master of fishing junk No. 6,601, H., was charged at the instance of Captain Jones, R.A., with wilfully disobeying the lawful orders of the Harbour Master, in that he did sail past the shore where the artillery were at practice. In view of the defendant being in custody for 40 hours, the Harbour Master dismissed him with a caution.

BEFORE MR. BASIL TAYLOR (ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTER).

COLLISION.

An inquiry was held into the collision between the steam launches *Ying Fat* of which Mak Fan was the Master, and the *Choy Sang* of which Ho Kau was Master, which occurred in the waters of the Colony on the 28th ultimo. Mak Tsau, master of the *Ying Fat*, deposed:—I left Nan Pak Hong for Sham Chan at about 7 a.m. on the 28th ultimo. I steered up to Cap Shin Mun. The *Choy Sang* was coming up astern. When in Cap Shin Mun the *Choy Sang* overtook me. When abreast of me on my starboard side, she starboarded her helm, and struck me on my starboard quarter, slewing me round to starboard, and I ran ashore in consequence on the small island to the south of Mawan. My engines were going full speed ahead at the time of the collision. I had not eased them at all at the time. I reversed directly after to try and avoid going ashore. I kept close in shore because the ebb tide was so strong. The *Choy Sang's* engines were still going ahead at the time of the collision. They must have been or she could not have run into me. Ho Kau, master of the *Choy Sang*, said:—The

launch belongs to a woman whose name I do not know. She engaged me. I don't know who the *Ying Fat* belongs to. We always leave Hongkong together carrying passengers. We do not race. I am never anxious to get to my destination before the other. On this occasion I was on the *Ying Fat's* starboard quarter, and going at the same speed as she was. She ported across my bows to prevent me getting ahead of her.

At this stage witness refused to answer questions put by the Magistrate for the purpose of discovering whether the *Choy Sang* was overtaking, so the Harbour Master said he could only come to the conclusion that she was.

Witness continued:—At the moment of collision my engines were going astern. The Magistrate, in passing judgment, said:—The *Choy Sang*, being the overtaking vessel, should have kept clear. I am satisfied that these two launches are running in opposition to each other, and each was trying to "jockey" the other. Ho Kau for negligent handling of his launch, will have his certificate suspended for two months. Mak Tsau, coxswain of the *Ying Fat*, contributed to the damage to his launch in hugging the shore so closely. His certificate will be suspended for one month.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber, St. George's Building, on Tuesday, 8th November, there were present:—Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Hon. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. Chatterton Wilcox, Hon. R. Shewan (ex officio) and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 5th ultimo were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

The Secretary reported that since the last meeting Messrs. Jorge and Company had been elected to membership subject to the usual confirmation at the annual general meeting.

QUARANTINE.

It was reported that the Hon. Colonial Secretary had kindly placed at the disposal of the Chamber copies of telegrams received from H.B.M. Consul-General, Shanghai, and the Secretary to the Government of India, advising the withdrawal of quarantine restrictions against Hongkong on the 17th and 30th September respectively.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM).
Correspondence was read from the Decimal Association explaining the progress made in the Home Parliament with regard to the Weights and Measures Bill, and asking for monetary assistance. It was decided, as the Chamber had supported the introduction of such a system for the Empire in 1902, to send a donation of £10 to the Association's Parliamentary Campaign Fund.

ZONE TIME.

Further correspondence with the Government regarding the introduction of zone time in the Colony was passed, all of which had previously been sent to the local press for information of the public.

PARIS SANITARY CONVENTION.

The replies from the shipping firms and agencies to the Chamber's letter drawing their attention to the terms of the Paris Sanitary Convention were laid on the table, and after some discussion it was decided to communicate with the authorities at the various adjacent ports to see whether they would be willing to reciprocate with similar sanitary measures against shipping if Hongkong became a party to the Convention.

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.

This question was again adjourned, as the reply from the Singapore Chamber regarding the position of this question in the Straits Settlements was not to hand.

IMBECILE BILL.

Correspondence with the Government relating to the Imbecile Ordinance Amendment Bill and the discussion was adjourned to the December meeting.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 2nd December.

THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER TO ST. JAMES.

Mr. Tso Ping Lung, who is reported in your columns as having been selected as Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, is well known in mandarin circles here. He was born in Canton forty-eight years ago, and is a Bannerman, or member of the garrison supported here by the Manchus.

Mr. Tso has the Civil button of the First Rank, and is a Taotai. He was educated at the Tung Wen Kuan, being one of the first scholars admitted when that school was established in 1864. After leaving the school he proceeded to Europe, and was attached to the London and Paris embassies for four years. His knowledge of English is considerable, and he also learned to speak French, though not with equal facility.

On his return he served in China for some time, and was subsequently sent as Consul-General to Singapore, where he remained for twelve years. During this long period he was very popular with all classes of Chinese, and with the members of the Government.

Latterly he has been acting as Director of the school where he was educated. He left here some months ago for Peking.

The appointment of such an able and broad-minded man is a matter for gratification. The interests of China should be well served by Taotai Tso, and his liking for and knowledge of foreign manners will make him popular. No better choice could have been made.

PAKHOL.

6th December.

EMIGRATION.

The s.s. *Rajaburi* arrived here on the 27th ultimo and left on the 29th ultimo for Muntok with about 700 emigrants on board.

RETURN OF OLD RESIDENTS.

Dr. and Mrs. Horder and infant, Mrs. Beauchamp and Miss Havers, all members of the Church Missionary Society, arrived here on the 28th ult. from England. Dr. and Mrs. Horder went home on furlough about two years ago.

DEPARTURES OF TWO OF OUR MEDICOS.

On the 28th ultimo, Dr. and Mrs. Mesny and Miss Mesny left for Hanoi via Haiphong. Dr. Mesny was the medical officer in charge of the French Hospital here, which post is now left vacant until the arrival of Dr. Abatucci, who is expected here soon.

Dr. Frederic Sanger also left on the 2nd instant for Fuhkien via Hongkong. He has been in sole charge of the Church Mission Hospital here for close on a year, during which period he has made himself very popular amongst all classes.

THE LATE TROUBLE IN HONAN.

Relative to the recent telegraph wire cutting trouble near Kaifengfu, a correspondent of *L'Impartial* writing from Honan says:—

Li Yuen-ching is leading the secret society insurgents in Honan. He is an old man who has lived there for very many years, and is a man of remarkable agility, who is treated almost as a god. Outside a very old temple there are two stone lions so high up that even the young people find it difficult to reach them. But the old man can get up there easily and sits on one of the lions to address the people who listen to him kneeling. The name of the village is Chihtai, eastern suburb of Kaifengfu. Li Yuen exhorts the people to kill the Governor, and then exterminate the foreigners and all foreign institutions like postal, newspaper railway and telegraphs. They fixed on the 1st Tenth Moon to start. People both inside and outside the city who refused to follow them were liable to have the whole family killed. On the 29th, Ninth Moon they cut down telegraph poles for a distance of 20 li; fortunately the authorities heard of this and sent troops to stop it, otherwise a very serious trouble might have ensued. Many Chinese were robbed. The real cause of the trouble is believed to be the garrison bannermen being cut their pay, when they refused to pay the taxes. Many of the military have joined them.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The thirty-eighth annual general meeting of the China Traders' Insurance Company was held on the morning of the 6th inst. at the offices of the Company, Queen's Building. Mr. Evan Ormiston presided, and there were present Messrs. J. Whittall (Secretary), A. J. Raymond, A. Haupt, H. Schubart, E. Goetz, J. Orange, G. T. Veitch, R. C. Wilcox, Capt. F. D. Goddard, W. Parlance, J. W. Ross Taylor, S. G. Newall, P. Lauder and W. E. Schmidt.

After the SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen.

—The report and statement of accounts, which, with your permission, I will take as read, have been in your hands for the past two weeks, and will, I anticipate, have been received by you with some little gratification. It will be noticed that our premium income is slightly in advance of that of last year, and that the out-turn of the year's operations leaves a substantial balance to the credit of working account, which after making safe provision for all outstanding liabilities and the declaration of our usual bonus to contributors, enables us to recommend the transfer of \$50,000 to the reserve fund and the payment of an increased dividend. You will remember our unfortunate experience of six years ago, when to help out a bad year we had to withdraw \$100,000 from our reserve fund. Since then your directors, through the successive occupants of this chair, have appealed to your patience in the matter of dividend until such time as our liquid reserves should be placed upon a sure basis, and that \$100,000 could be placed in reserve. In the statement now before you the signs are not wanting that the patience and forbearance exercised by you are to have their reward. This year we feel fully justified in recommending the replacing in reserve of half the amount referred to, and if present indications of the current year's working can be depended upon, we have great hope of being able to replace the remainder next year. It may be thought that, on the figures before you, we could, without any great strain, have paid a \$5 dividend this year. That is quite true, but your directors are of opinion that they are best conserving the interests of shareholders in not paying away in dividends more than is represented by the interest earnings, until the reserve fund has been brought up to its former level. The consideration of further augmenting the dividend may be justified, although in the true interests of the Company the further augmenting of the company's reserves is, beyond doubt, a question which should demand equal, if not greater, consideration. Increasing reserves not only afford greater security to the insuring public, but they justify and enable the prosecution of a larger business, resulting, we would hope, in ever increasing profits, and shareholders also directly reap the benefit in the increasing interest earnings permitting the payment of increasing dividends. This is the policy which you are well aware is followed by the largest and most prosperous insurance companies of the present day. The amount which you will notice has been written off our investment in consols brings that investment down to a book value of £86, which we consider a safe point. Messrs. Palmer and Turner's valuation report on the properties under mortgage to the company shows that our advances under this heading are amply secured. Although it is not a matter which is really connected with the report and accounts now before you, your directors desire to intimate to you that they have followed what is now an almost universal custom in sanctioning, as from the commencement of the current financial year, the initiation of a provident fund for the benefit of the European members of the company's staff throughout the service, which they consider as perhaps in the long run a wise provision for the future, and with which they hope and believe shareholders will be in full accord. Before formally moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet I shall be glad to give, to the best of my ability, any further information that may be desired.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. J. W. ROSS TAYLOR in seconding said:—As our Chairman had just said, it has been our custom to get a \$4 dividend, and I think that we all take it certain that our directors feel justified in deciding to increase that dividend and placing \$50,000 to reserve, and that they feel confident that they will not only remain at the figure put down, but that there is every prospect of the marking time which we have experienced coming to an end and that steady advance is about to ensue. I am sure that you will all join in congratulating our Secretary on the first complete year under his working, which has enabled us to increase our dividend, and we hope and expect that this is one step forward in a long series of steps. I am quite sure that we are all ready for all we expect and all we can get. I have pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried.

Mr. S. G. NEWALL proposed, and Capt. F. D. GODDARD seconded, the appointment of Mr. Haupt on the Board of Directors. This was carried.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX proposed, and Mr. ORANGE seconded, the re-election of Messrs. Raymond and Ormiston as directors. Carried.

Mr. G. T. VEITCH proposed, and Mr. W. PARLANE seconded, the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and H. U. Jeffries as auditors.

The CHAIRMAN said that dividend warrants would be ready for issue this morning.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG DYEING AND CLEANING CO., LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual general meeting of the Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co. Ltd. was held on Wednesday, 7th December, at the Company's offices, No. 22, Des Voeux Road. Mr. G. C. Moxon presided. There were also present Messrs. F. Ellis, E. Haskell, Chan Ki Pan and Yuen Ian Hing.

The Manager (Mr. G. C. Moxon) having read the notice convening the Meeting said:

GENTLEMEN,—The accounts and report for the year ending on 31st August last have now been some days in your hands, and I will adopt the usual procedure with your permission and take them as read. I regret that the working account should show a debit balance of \$5,537.34, but in such an enterprise as ours it is perhaps to be expected that at the outset there should be some loss—as time goes on and the works become more generally known I am of opinion that the volume of business will increase and should be attended with profit. To make use of a hackneyed expression, there is no doubt that this Company fills a long-felt want in the Far East, and I cannot but think that its existence will very shortly be justified. It is gratifying to the management to be able to record that the work turned out since we started has given general satisfaction, and it is a cheering fact that our receipts have steadily increased since March last, when the works opened. You have an efficient, expert staff, your works are well equipped and well situated, and I do not think better work could be turned out by any similar institution. We want more business, of course, which it is our constant endeavour to obtain, and I have every reason to believe that in this we shall be successful. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer any questions.

The report presented was as follows:—The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the annual report and accounts for year ended 31st August, 1904, which they regret show a loss on working account of \$5,537.34.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Arthur R. Leake of Shanghai.

G. C. MOXON,
General Manager.

The accounts are as follows:— BALANCE-SHEET.

31st August, 1904.		
LIABILITIES.		\$ c.
Dr.		
Sundry creditors	\$ 126.87	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	18,351.92	
		18,478.79
Capital account	60,000.00	
		\$78,478.79

ASSETS.		\$ c.
Cr.		
Land and account	\$ 6,194.73	
Buildings account	23,638.31	
Machinery and plant account	25,240.18	
		55,073.22
Fire insurance unexpired		596.40
Stock account	\$1,442.46	
Furniture and fittings account	542.99	
		1,985.45
Cash account		677.25
Expenses during construction account	14,849.13	
Profit and loss account	5,537.34	
		\$78,478.79

WORKING ACCOUNT.

For the six months ending 31st August, 1904.

Dr.		\$ c.
To Shanghai works charges account	418.20	
To fire insurance account	570.45	
To stationery, printing and advertising account	738.37	
To stock account	2,364.41	
To coal account	307.20	
To Shanghai charges account	76.47	
To delivery charges account	138.74	
To water account	125.01	
To Shanghai agency account	1,400.00	
To taxes account	261.99	
To Hongkong charges account	389.69	
To wages account	2,567.93	
To salaries account	1,054.97	
		\$10,418.42

Cr.		\$ c.
By dyeing and cleaning account	\$4,898.73	
By balance carried to profit and loss account	5,519.69	
		10,418.42
		\$10,418.42

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the six months ending 31st August, 1904.

Dr.		\$ c.
To working account—balance transferred	5,519.69	
To auditor's fee	68.49	
		\$5,588.18
Cr.		\$ c.
By exchange account	50.84	
By balance carried down being net loss	5,537.34	
		\$5,588.18

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. E. HASKELL seconded and it was duly carried.

DAIRY FARM CO., LD.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Dairy Farm Co., Ltd., was held at the offices of the Company, No. 2, Lower Albert Road, on December 5th for the purpose of confirming certain resolutions. Mr. E. H. Hinds (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. S. A. Seth (Secretary), F. Maitland, E. Osborne, and James Walker. The resolutions, which were confirmed, are as follows:—

That the following be added to the Articles of Association:—

Article XVII, paragraph 14—The Directors may, from time to time, with the sanction of the company in general meeting, declare a bonus or a dividend to be paid to the members in proportion to their shares out of the reserve fund or out of any other accumulated profits for the time being of the company, and with the like consent may also declare that such bonus or dividend may be appropriated in payment of any calls upon new shares to be allotted to the existing shareholders upon any duly authorized increase of capital. (2)—That the capital of the company be increased by the sum of \$112,500, divided into 15,000 shares of \$7.50 each, and that the directors be authorized to allot such shares *pro rata* among the existing shareholders according to the number of shares for which they may, on the 10th day of November 1904, be registered, in the proportion of three new shares for every complete two shares held by them on that date.

That the directors' remuneration (as allowed by Article XV, paragraph 10) be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per annum.

That the directors be authorized to declare a bonus or dividend out of the reserve fund or out of the accumulated profits of the company sufficient to pay a call of \$6.00 per share upon the new capital already authorized to be

raised by special resolution, and that such bonus or dividend be appropriated for the purpose of paying such call.

MESSRS. GREGOR & CO.

A NEW ENTERPRISE AT HONGKONG.

Mr. R. Pescio, the principal of a new local firm, Messrs. Gregor and Co., gave an inaugural luncheon at the offices of the Company, No. 34, Queen's Road Central, on the 3rd inst. Among those present were Chev. Z. Volpicelli (Consul-General for Italy), Messrs. E. A. Hewett (Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce), D. W. Craddock (of the Canadian Pacific Railway), and W. H. T. Davis (of the Commercial Union Insurance Company). There were toasts at tiffin.

Chev. Volpicelli asked those present to drink to the success of the business—if it were as good as the wines they had sampled, Mr. Pescio would have nothing to complain of.

Mr. Hewett said they always welcomed new enterprise if it was carried out in a thorough business-like manner, especially when it was that of a country (Italy) which had shown herself friendly to Great Britain.

Mr. Pescio thanked his guests for their good wishes, and emphasised his appreciation of Mr. Hewett's remarks concerning his country.

The firm of Gregor and Co. is quite a new one to Hongkong, though firms interested in it are very well known in the wine trade. Mr. Pescio recently arrived from Europe. His show-rooms are already very attractive, there being a display of wines and spirits of a large number of brands of every age and description. The offices of the Company are situated opposite the Post Office, in the billiard room of the old Hongkong Club building.

THE RELIGIONS OF CHINA.

LECTURE BY THE REV. E. J. HARDY.

The Rev. E. J. Hardy, Chaplain of the Forces, on the 6th inst. delivered a lecture at the City Hall on "The Religions of China." H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., was in the chair.

THE LECTURER having been introduced by His Excellency said that the subject of "The Religions of China" was a very large one indeed. Regarding Confucius, if he were irrationally despised before his death, he had been senselessly overestimated since. When he did or did not do the most ordinary things they were noted as extraordinary. The regard which the Chinese had for the "Uncrowned Monarch" might be estimated from the following, translated from the Sacrificial Ritual:—

Confucius! Confucius! How great is Confucius! Before Confucius there never was a Confucius; Since Confucius there never has been a Confucius. Confucius! Confucius! How great is Confucius.

His great influence might be accounted for by the fact that his writings were used as text books in schools and for competitive examinations. The writings of Confucius in common with all Chinese classics were free from anything debasing—if they did not ascend to Heaven they did not descend to Hell. They might say that Confucius gave the world the Chinese version of "The religion of a gentleman," only this was not a religious system at all, but one of ethics, and even these were put on a level with etiquette and "good form." Confucius did not attempt to answer such questions as "Where did I come from and where am I going?" "Is there a father in Heaven, and if so what is my duty to Him?" He taught that men knew nothing about the gods, but that they should live as if in their presence. Confucianism had no vital force to renew sinners and keep them from more sin. Instruction it gave, but not the power to carry it out. Instead of the glowing teaching from Heaven there was the icy philosophy of the world. When asked about a future life Confucius answered, "While you do not know this life how can you know about a future one?" A disciple desired to be instructed how to die, and was told to learn to live well and then he would know how to die. This agnosticism of Confucius was perhaps a recoil from the extravagant metaphysics of Laotse.

the founder of Taoism, whom he characterized as "an ignorant good man." The name Laoutze might be translated as old child or old boy. The philosopher was born with white hair, and no wonder, for his birth is said not to have taken place until his mother carried him in her womb seventy-two, or some said eighty years. Taoism meant the way of living, the method of best developing human nature. The book called "Tao Teh King" which Laoutze left behind him contained only 5,000 words. Along with much rubbish there was in it not a little that was good about the virtues of humility, and unselfishness culminating in the precept which even Confucius could not receive, to return good for evil "To the not good," he said, "I would be good in order to make them good." The Taoists thought that people became spirits, and are happy in a future world. On one occasion they fought well for an Emperor. Instead of giving to them the earthly rewards for which they contended he told them that they were spirits and would be rewarded in the spiritual world. Those, however, who were content with their portion in this life had only to take a dose of the elixir of life, which the Taoists professed to have discovered. Laoutze was as great a believer in non-interference by the State as was Herbert Spencer, and when they thought of the fussy must-do-something people who annoyed their neighbours in the Western World, and of the mischievous philanthropists who demanded that everything should be regulated by Government—when they thought of these faddists Laoutze's doctrine of masterly inactivity was very attractive. He enunciated it by saying "Do nothing and all will be done. I do nothing, and the people become good of their own accord." Laoutze held with Solomon that "The day of death was better than the day of birth," and with Shakespeare that we are "such stuff as dreams are made of." Though he did not value life or fear death he was averse to war, considering that the least glorious peace is preferable to the most brilliant successes of war, and that the most brilliant victory was but the light from a conflagration. The gods which Taoists worshipped most were local ones—men who had been famous as discoverers, statesmen, philanthropists or women celebrated for domestic virtue. Taoism had degenerated into little better than a system of fortune-telling and an emporium of incantations against evil spirits. In 250 B.C. eighteen Buddhist missionaries came to China, and they are now commemorated by having their images placed in most large temples. Enquiries into the missionary problem at that time would have called Buddhist propaganda in China a decided failure, for it made scarcely any way for 300 years. Then it was presented at Court and adopted by the Imperial Government. By means of this State aid it grew and spread. Buddhism was a beautiful religion when it came to China, but it was soon debased by being mixed with Taoism and with an idolatry imported from India. The men who handled it were poor representatives of its founder. Buddhism accounted for the inequalities of earth by its doctrines of heaven, purgatory, transmigration and Nirvana. Instead of a fixed heaven and hell for which no one was good enough or bad enough it proclaimed a heaven and hell of many mansions—each person went to his own place, which he had prepared himself. He who was without desire, dead to himself, alone lived. Of the five commandments of Buddha—thou shalt not kill any living thing; thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not commit any unchaste act; thou shalt not drink any intoxicating liquor—the ordinary Chinese Buddhist obeyed whichever suited him. At present Buddhism was simultaneously derided and advocated, and neglected and espoused by the Chinese. Certain Europeans who found it easier to worship from afar than to attend Church were coquetting with Buddhism as with a fashionable beauty. There were also something like 20,000,000 Mahomedans in China, and these with the native Christians were the only Chinese who believed in and worshipped God in the European sense of the word. As to the number of native Christians in China, how

could this be ascertained with any accuracy when they did not know how many real Christians there were in Great Britain? The Roman Catholic Church claimed 500,000, and Protestantism (the various sects combined) between 150,000 and 300,000 (Applause).

Sir H. S. BERKELEY made a few remarks. He said that the philosophy of Buddhism was to a great extent, in common with that of the great philosophers the world had produced from time to time. Taoism, however, was impractical in the extreme, and of no advantage to study—"Do nothing in order that everything might come" seemed a contradiction of terms. Confucius was a great philosopher and his teachings might be addressed to each one of them to-day.

The Hon. A. W. BREWIN remarked that he should say the religions in force in China were Ancestor Worship, Belief in Spirits and Fung Shui. Ancestor Worship, which the Chinese Government sought to strengthen, was the base of practically all things in China. Fung Shui was a science by which the people ascertained the things of the Earth. An old Chinese gentleman had a few days previously remarked to him on the excellent Fung Shui sites in the Public Gardens and expressed the opinion that the success of Hongkong was largely due the Fung Shui site chosen for Sir Arthur Kennedy's statue. Another excellent Fung Shui site was the monkey houses. "I don't know" added Mr. Brewin "to what use the Governor may eventually put this site." Mr. Brewin said he had lived in three "haunted" houses in China and, as a matter of fact, the Attorney General's and Crown Solicitor's quarters at the Supreme Court were recently haunted (Laughter). He would like to hear a lecture on the religions he had mentioned.

Mr. DYER BALL spoke at length on Ancestor Worship, commencing his address by saying that it required a lifetime of study to grasp such a subject as "The Religions of China." Though the lecturer had not been long enough in China to have gone into the matter thoroughly he had taken his lecture from good authorities.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR in concluding the discussion drew a few very interesting parallels between the religions of China and those of the West and thanked the lecturer for his very interesting lecture.

The Rev. E. J. HARDY said with reference to Mr. Dyer Ball's remarks that if he had gone into the subject as thoroughly as he might there would have been no time left for others to speak.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C. Secretary of the Odd Volumes Society, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman which was passed with acclamation.

WAR CORRESPONDENTS AT THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

Mr. Ernest Brindle, of the *Daily Mail*, and Captain Harden, of the *Daily Chronicle*, are at the Hongkong Hotel for a few days. On the 6th inst. a detachment of reporters made a sortie against them, anxious to know what they thought of the Russians, of the Japanese, of the chow at the Hongkong Hotel, of the chances of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, of the situation at Port Arthur, of the scenery at Hongkong, and of the probable date when the war will be over. They were not certain on some of these points.

Mr. Brindle, who came out to China as sub-editor of our Shanghai contemporary, the *N.C. Daily News*, has just finished the first stage of his first campaign. By making an early start and having some "savvy" acquired in North China, he has succeeded in getting ahead of many of the experienced campaigners, and has done so well that the *Daily Mail* has cabled out congratulations—a very unusual thing in newspaperdom, where the kicks are more numerous than compliments. He went north and organized a system before war broke out, hiring native runners, etc., and was thus ready for history when it began to be made. Joining neither army, but keeping on the fringe of the trouble, he was able to send Home all he got, and to move about with practically no restrictions. He was half frozen to death in Saratov's restaurant in Port Arthur; was a guest of a Hunghutze

chief; (he admires the Hunghutze); had trouble with Japanese disguised as Hunghutze, who wanted to play amateur censors; was with Etzel when that poor fellow was Roshdesvenskied by Chinese soldiers; chartered the *Chefoo* for £1,000, and was at Chinnampo when the Japanese warships shifted their base there from Chemulpho. He has worked from Chefoo to place north of Hsinmintung, and seen at least two minor engagements. He was in Newchwang when the Russians walked out and the Japanese galloped in. He thinks there is nothing to choose between a Russian censor and a Japanese censor; both are anathema maranatha. He had to give up the *Chefoo* because the Japanese overhauled him and wanted to ship a censor on board. He has had several "scoops," and all of them conscientiously worked for. He likes the game. It has, so far as health and physique are concerned, made a man of him; and he expects to return in the spring, in time for the fall of Port Arthur, which may or may not take place. The stories of the soldiers, either Russian or Japanese, illtreating the Chinese, are, he says, all false. He is of opinion that Chinese are worse treated in Shanghai than they are in the war area. He has scraped acquaintance with the Hongkong coolie, and thinks a little illtreatment would do him good. He does not know when the war will end.

Captain Harden is an officer of his Majesty's army, on the reserve. He has campaigned in Somaliland and South Africa, was on his way to Tibet, but came on here instead. He also is on leave, and his sole ambition at present is to see a polo match before he leaves Hongkong on Saturday.

Captain Harden characterises as absurd the *Chefoo* story (elsewhere appearing) that the crew of the *Katsoropy* was composed entirely of officers, who were to find substitutes at Shanghai and go to meet the Baltic Fleet as pilots. He was one of the first to board her when she arrived at Chefoo, and is certain that she carried her usual crew.

MORAL INFLUENCE OF THE EUROPEAN IN THE FAR EAST.

INTERESTING LECTURE BY MR. DYER BALL.

Mr. Dyer Ball gave a very interesting lecture at the Y.M.C.A. on 4th inst. on the "Moral influence of the European in the Far East." He said it was one of the laws of their existence that, whether they liked it or not, they exerted influence on their fellow men. It was no use saying "Am I my brother's keeper" because their brother to a great extent took his cue from them. They knew how a younger looked up to his elder brother and copied him. A case in point, showing how Europeans influenced others was that of Japan. This, of course, applied to a nation as a whole, but it also applied to individuals. Personally, he always tried to look on the bright side of things, as those who knew him or his writings would agree. He recognised the good work of missionaries, and their example. Also, there were many cases where commercial men had exercised beneficial influence on Chinese with whom they had come in contact. His intention, however, was to point out the mistakes they made in their intercourse with Chinese. There was the opium trade, a curse to China; their action in connection with this was not commendable. Another dark question was the opinion Chinese had formed from seeing the moral character of some Europeans in the treaty ports. The Chinese stigmatised the whole people as low in consequence. They believed that all foreigners—it did not matter whether they were Christians or not, because the Chinese were not capable of judging—were immoral; such, indeed, was very sad. In Canton, not so long back, the natives were beginning to know when it was Sunday because the river steamers did not arrive on that day, but that had been destroyed—some river steamers do run now. They had their ten commandments, and these were broken right before the heathen. Sometimes Europeans knocked down or hit Chinese for practically no reason whatever, and the Chinese generally refrained from retaliating because they were a peace-loving people. This, however, was not always

the case. Some fifty-seven years ago six young Englishmen went off into the country on the outskirts of Canton. On approaching a village they met some Chinese labourers coming from the fields, and shoved them off the path, hitting one old man—it was bad enough to hit an old man, but this one happened to be the village elder. They were taken in custody and killed. The facts of the case did not excuse the Chinese but it was not out and out murder, and the Englishmen were largely to blame for their fate. There were continually cases of Chinese who happened to have enlarged spleens or other maladies succumbing to kicks from Englishmen. It made a man feel sorrow to think that he had caused the death of another, but he was not guilty of murder. What they had to look at was the material result. Did it not degrade a man to hit another without provocation? And, very often, to hit men with more brains than themselves! Had not the Chinese their poetry, their literature and civilization dating back to the time when Europeans were savages? They (Europeans) had gone into a colder climate and acquired whiter skins than the Chinese; they were also proud of their modern civilization, and religion—but did such action as he had enumerated earn respect? Europeans and Chinese, certainly, would not blend together for many years to come as the two civilizations were so different, but it appeared to him that they could have far friendlier relations than at present.

A CHINESE PATRIOT'S VIEWS.

We extract the following interesting comments, written by a Chinese in a mandarin book called "The Bell for Rousing the Age," from an article by George Miles in the *North China Herald*.

Regarding foreign concessions the Chinese author says: "Although concessions are leased to foreigners, they still form part of Chinese territory, yet to a Chinaman entering a foreign concession is like entering hell; there is not the slightest liberty. The Indian policemen who stand in the streets are like the demons standing before the palace of the King of Hades. The interpreters and others in foreign hongts are just like the underlings of the Decider of Life and Death in Hades. If they speak to you, they make your hair stand on end.

"In Shanghai there is a Foreign Public Garden. A notice is put up at the gate 'Dogs and Chinamen are not allowed inside'; thus we Chinamen are regarded as a grade lower than dogs. China is still a nation, and yet we are treated thus; but wait until China is split up, and we dare not venture to imagine the treatment that we shall receive.

"From my remarks you will imagine that I am a madman, or suspect that I belong to the Boxers. But you are wrong. I am not in full sympathy with the Boxers. I have met many foreigners, visited foreign countries, and desire that we may learn foreign methods. I give unstinted praise to foreign learning, yet I am fully convinced that the foreigner's heart is full of enmity. Should our country be split up by foreigners, we shall indeed be in a sorry plight. I therefore venture to use these strong and vehement words, to rouse all to try and save our country. To do this, there are ten things we should clearly understand:—

1.—We should clearly understand that the splitting up of China not only means the destruction of the nation; it also involves the extermination of the race.

2.—That after foreigners have split up China, the Manchu Government will be retained to crush the Chinese.

3.—That it is now useless to think of preparing any plan to save China, except fighting battles involving terrible loss of life. The fault of China has ever been, that she never makes preparation; she only talks of preparation when the danger has come upon her.

4.—The death of a few men at the present time will be the salvation of many valuable lives in the future.

5.—Clearly understand the distinctions between the various races of mankind. (Here follows a description of the various races. It is shown how other races have been conquered by

the white race. Statistics are given to show that during the last 200 years the white race has increased and other races diminished through the cruelty and oppression of the whites, and that China and Japan are the only nations left for the whites to seize.)

6.—Clearly understand that every subject has a share and an interest in the nation's welfare. The nation might be compared to a ship, the Emperor to the man at the helm, the officials to the sailors, the people to the owners of the cargo. Should the ship be unseaworthy not only would the man at the helm and the sailors be concerned, the owners of the cargo would be still more concerned. If the man at the helm and the sailors are proved to be inefficient, the owners will dismiss them and select others. This is in accord with the highest reason. The owners certainly would not fold their arms and be indifferent as to the condition of the ship and allow the helmsman and sailors to recklessly navigate it. If, then, I am a subject of this kingdom how can I be indifferent about the prosperity or adversity of my country and allow the Emperor and officials to act stupidly without remonstrance? Let the Emperor and officials exert themselves for the good of the nation and we will help them, but if they injure and destroy the country, we must call them to account for such are the duties of the owners.

7.—If we wish to withstand foreigners, we must first learn and imitate their good points. Nowadays people all speak of the wealth and power of Western nations, but have no idea how this wealth and power have been acquired. Now although we hate them, we must copy their good points. This is how Japan has become so powerful. Many among us say: "We must fight the foreigners," but do not tell us how to do it. Their guns are powerful, and we must acquire the use of the most modern weapons. The foreigners have so many good points that they cannot all be mentioned here. One of the best things about them is, that they nearly all have a good education. They treat all with justice (that is, all their own race; to other races they extend no justice). They love their own country (though not other countries). They are always seeking to improve the army and navy, the government, and the industries of the country. Which one of these things ought not China to imitate? We must copy them in order to crush them; the more we hate them, the more we must imitate them. We must imitate their strong love of country and sense of justice. To do this we must establish schools and send students to foreign countries. Many have strong prejudices against sending students abroad as most of the students return with foreign ideas and talk about upsetting the Manchu dynasty. What they say is unimportant; try and find out what is in their hearts, and you will find that in bearing insult patiently they have copied their enemies and may yet be the salvation of their country.

8.—We should know that if we desire to be strong, we must cast aside our bad points. We Chinese are always boasting that we are a civilized race: the nation of propriety and justice. In the time of our forefathers this was perfectly true, but in the present day we are unprincipled, cunning plunderers and hypocrites, there is no wickedness we will not do. No trace of the ancient spirit is left among us. The officials know nothing besides how to get rich. The soldiers are afraid of death and only think of saving their own lives. The only desire of scholars is to obtain degrees, so they will not trouble themselves with other affairs. The consciences of the upper, middle, and lower classes are dead; they have no sense of shame. Their minds are cramped and they are without education. They are foolish and bigoted, and they believe in demons and sprites. The men smoke foreign opium and the women bind their feet. Many lead wandering lives and join secret societies. The country is full of thieves and robbers. Their houses are just like cattle sheds. Their conduct is barbarous. Their words are without nicety and they love money as they love life. If they go to foreign countries they are regarded as belonging to a barbarous, mean, and despicable race, and are refused permission to land. The nation is thus insulted and treated with contempt, yet the Government knows nothing of it, or of the shame it entails. Al-

though the splitting up of the nation is before their eyes, yet they dance and sing. The farmers, artisans, and merchants cling to ancient methods and will not introduce anything new. The whole nation regards military affairs as unimportant; hence, whenever foreign troops come, we are beaten. Unless we change, I fear there will be no need for the foreigner to come and destroy us: we shall destroy ourselves.

9.—We must become civilized. We must not act like savages and barbarians. By civilization I mean that outwardly we must always treat foreigners with gentleness and friendliness. We must protect all mission chapels, missionaries, and merchants. But inwardly we must watch the foreigner carefully, knowing that he desires to seize our power and wealth. If he wishes to build a railway, buy a mineral hill, locate foreign troops, or appoint a foreign official, we must never consent. If they fight us and offer us tens of thousands of gold, we must not join them or sell them provisions, neither must we act as spies for them. Before the battle we must resolve to fight to the death, and kill all the enemy. But all foreigners, other than soldiers, must not be harmed. If foreign soldiers are taken prisoners or surrender, they must not be killed, but be well cared for. This is international law. This is a civilized method. By doing this, for the time being, we shall only be able to save the nation; we shall not be able to destroy Foreign Powers, but must make peace with them; hence the necessity of employing these methods. Barbarous methods are without order and are confused. Suddenly a few hundred men congregate, burn and destroy a few missionaries and converts, or a foreign official and merchants. They then think they have accomplished their purpose. But foreign troops arrive, the rioters are scattered, the peace is unished, and a heavy indemnity demanded. Therefore these barbarian methods must on no account be adopted.

10.—We must clearly understand that this work of contending with Foreign Powers will be unending. If foreigners seek to split up our nation, we must not allow it, whilst one man over twenty years of age remains alive. When the next generation grows up, they must carry on the work. Those who are willing to become slaves to the foreigner, must not be allowed any clan rights during life, nor must they be allowed burial in the ancestral grounds after death."

A PARSEE PRESENTATION.

A large gathering of the members of the Parsee community of Hongkong and Canton met at the Parsee Club House in Elgin Street on the evening of the 3rd inst. in honour of Mr. Framjee H. Arjanee, who has acted as a trustee and honorary secretary of the Parsee Charity Funds for the last six years, and who is returning to Bombay by the steamer *Lightning*, and will not be returning to Hongkong. The object of the meeting was to present him, as a parting souvenir, with a handsome urn made of solid silver, with two silver trays, silver glasses, and other minor accessories, from the Parsee community of Hongkong and Canton. It may be perhaps interesting to add that the Parsees use the urns to put the fire on which they burn sandalwood and other incense while saying their prayers; fire, which is the source of heat and light, and consequently of all life, being considered by them as an outward manifestation of the Holy Ahurmazd, the Creator of the Universe. As Mr. Arjanee belongs to the priest class, and is known to be extremely religious, this form of presentation was agreed upon by the subscribers as fit and appropriate.

The silver urn and trays bear the following inscription in Gujarati:—"Presented to Mr. Framjee Hormusjee Arjanee by the Parsee community of Hongkong and Canton in grateful recognition of his valuable services rendered as a Trustee and Honorary Secretary of their Charity Funds. November, 1904."

The meeting hall was profusely decorated with green foliage and festoons of flowers, and great enthusiasm prevailed. The meeting was presided over by Mr. H. N. Mody, the popular leader of the Parsee community of South China, and proceedings were opened by his reading the

following telegram from the Parsee community of Canton:

"H. N. Mody, President Parsee community Hongkong. Please inform to-day's meeting we one and all heartily join in presentation to our esteemed secretary Arjane, wishing him bon-voyage.—CANTON ANJUMUN (community)."

Mr. H. RUTTONJEE, while requesting the President to make the presentation in the name of the subscribers, gave a short history of the movement. He said that in deference to the generally expressed wishes of the members of the community, and their urgent request, he in conjunction with some friends started and circulated a subscription list amongst the members of the Parsee community of Hongkong and Canton, and out of 110 members, 101 readily subscribed various sums making up a total of 600 dollars in five days. It would thus seem that virtually the whole community had joined in doing honour to Mr. Arjane, who is rightly held in high esteem by his co-religionists for his righteousness, independence, and other virtues. He eulogised the valuable services rendered by Mr. Arjane to the poor members of the community by quietly getting subscriptions for them from the more fortunate members of the community, and he paid a tribute to Mr. Arjane's zeal and disinterested efforts in increasing the charity funds to a figure very nearly verging on one lac of dollars. He concluded by expressing his hearty good wishes for Mr. Arjane's health and future happiness.

Mr. N. K. ANTIA, of Messrs Tata & Co., followed with a short speech, heartily endorsing what had fallen from Mr. H. Ruttonjee. He pointed out that though the presents were not of great value, they were the very embodiments of the hearty good wishes and deep gratitude the community felt for Mr. Arjane's valuable work as a trustee and the secretary of the Charity Funds.

Mr. H. N. MODY, who was heartily cheered, then made the presentation in the name of the subscribers. In a short and touching speech he spoke in eulogistic terms of the unabating zeal with which Mr. Arjane had served the community as the secretary of their Charity Funds, and he assured his hearers as their President that his work of administering the funds of the community was a great deal facilitated by the zeal, fidelity, and conscientious work which Mr. Arjane as his colleague had brought to bear upon it. He expressed his personal regret at the idea of separation from such an esteemed colleague and co-religionist, as he had been accustomed by long association, and by his virtues, to look upon Mr. Arjane not only as a sympathetic friend, but also as an affectionate brother. He hoped that Mr. Arjane would live a long and useful life in his native land, full of honour and happiness.

Mr. ARJANE, who seemed deeply touched, made a short reply. He expressed his heartfelt and sincere thanks to all those who had assembled there, and also to all the members of the community who had evinced so much sympathy, and extended to him the right hand of fellowship and brotherly regard. He protested, however, that he had done nothing more than his duty, and that he did not merit the honour done him, and he assured his hearers that he highly appreciated the good wishes they expressed for him. He accepted the present as a souvenir of their kindness, and said that he would preserve it in his family as a reminder of the happy days he had spent in China, and he assured them that this tangible proof of the extreme kindness and sympathy which they, as his co-religionists and countrymen, had extended to him during his stay in this colony, would always remain enshrined in his memory.

After the presentation ceremony was over, the company adjourned to the dining room, where light refreshments were served, and where Mr. Mody proposed the health of Mr. Arjane, wishing him a pleasant and a safe passage home, to which a suitable reply was given. After a vote of thanks to Mr. Mody for having presided over the meeting had been accorded as usual, the company dispersed after giving cheers for Mr. Arjane and their ever-popular leader.

The secret of the Japanese superiority to the Korean is explained. The Korean can shut one eye if he has a gun; the Japanese can do it without a gun.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUT OF WORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

December 7th.

SIR,—I beg your kind perusal of the following facts and would thank you to give them publicity. Seven weeks ago I was paid off the *s.s. Wynford* in Shanghai. I stayed at the Sailors' Home, Broadway. I tried all ways and means to re-ship or to get a job ashore bricklaying, as I am a bricklayer by trade, but I soon discovered that a white man has no chance with a Chinaman. Chinese sailors: Chinese bricklayers. Hearing that Hongkong was a good shipping port I managed to get here, only to find myself "out of the frying-pan into the fire." I have been a fortnight in Hongkong and a tougher fortnight I never spent. I have tried all the works about here—namely, the Naval Yard Extension; Quarry Bay Dry Dock; New Water Works, Kowloon; City Customs; Macao Customs. "No vacancy" was my dismissal. I have spoken to the Shipping Master at the Sailors' Home several times and the reply has always been—"No shipping whatever." I cannot obtain work. I cannot get out of Hongkong. What can a man do? Beg or starve, of course, and I have been doing both since I landed here with but sorry success. I have slept on the bare ground the many nights I could not beg twenty-five cents to pay for a bed. I have had to depend on non-Britishers for a meal now and then. The priests of the French Mission House, Cairns Road, and the Sisters of the Italian Convent have been very good in this respect. The Rev. France has charge of a mission for seamen, but when I applied for assistance he would not help me because I did not belong to the Home. I applied to Mr. N. S. Brown, Hon. Sec. St. Andrew's Society (I am a young Scotchman), and he very kindly put me four days in the Home, Arsenal Street. My four days were up last Sunday, and since then I have been existing on one meal a day and sleeping out. I have seen the manager of the Y.M.C.A., but he "really couldn't do anything, no funds available." Now what does all this amount to? Simply this—that I am at the end of my tether. I cannot steal, I don't like to beg, and I may add I don't like to starve. If I'm a beachcomber I'm a very poor hand at the game. My sincere desire is to get out of Hongkong to a white man's country where I could earn an honest dollar. Thanking you in anticipation.—I am yours truly,

WILLIAM CARLYLE.

OUT OF WORK.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]
Hongkong, 9th December.

SIR,—Your correspondent W. Carlyle is in error—I will not use a stronger term—when he states that I refused to help him because he was not in the Sailors' Home. I did not refuse to help him, and if I had done so, it would not have been for such a reason. The fact of the matter is that the need is so far in excess of my means to help that I am often compelled not to "refuse help," but to explain that I haven't the means.

During the past eleven months I have been enabled by grants from the Ladies' Benevolent Society, by donations from friends, and by drawing upon the Church Funds to help men, in various ways, to the extent of four hundred and fifty dollars, and with one or two trifling exceptions these have all been men not in the Sailors' Home.

Your correspondent, together with several others who have come to Hongkong, was paid off in Shanghai, but as the crew had signed three years' articles it must have been with his own consent, if not at his own request. Why did he consent? But this suggests another question, and a more serious one, why did the British Consul in Shanghai, knowing as he must have done the very poor prospects of re-shipping in Shanghai, allow him to be paid off?

Surely this is a matter that calls for investigation.—I am yours faithfully,

J. H. FRANCE.

NOTABLE CEREMONY AT MACAO.

Everybody who has time goes to Macao. Gamblers, honeymooners, tourists—all arise at an unearthly hour, and go to be impressed by the ups and downs of life there, its charming environments and its urban dirt. The mind picture that survives is probably that of the facade of St. Paul's Cathedral. This big front wall, with its sculptured angels, and its glassless windows, is now to have the cathedral that belongs to it restored. The Bishop of Macao laid the foundation stone on the 4th inst, in the presence of thousands of the Faithful.

The ancient collegiate church of St. Paul was built some time between 1594 and 1602—a wonderful age where foreign enterprise in China is concerned. A Macao correspondent of the *Mangalore Magazine* says: "The church of St. Paul's was begun in 1602, as was to be seen by the inscription on the corner-stone, but it was not completed until about 1623. The story of its building shows how intimately the interests of religion were affected by the vicissitudes of the colony, and to what extent the mission felt the ups and downs of commerce and war. In 1602, one of Macao's richly-laden vessels from Japan, bearing the fortunes of many of the wealthiest colonists, was lost on her voyage home. The following year another vessel of the colony was captured in the Straits of Singapore by the Dutch, and on the same day that the disheartening news reached Macao, three ships of the same inveterate enemies and rivals of the Portuguese sailed boldly into the Macao roads and took possession of a vessel all laden for Japan, while the crew happened to be ashore. Such losses weighed heavily upon the little colony, and many a work of zeal projected by the missionaries had to be delayed, or given up altogether, for want of the aims which in the time of prosperity flowed in so generously. Among the delays was that of the building of St. Paul's church. The edifice had been planned on a grand scale; and as money was wanting to execute the plans, work was discontinued."

In an excellent old book, compiled by N. B. Dennys of the Consular Service, in 1867, we read:

"Subsequently to the expulsion of the Jesuits from the Portuguese dominions (A.D. 1759) their collegiate establishment was converted into barracks, but was consumed by fire on the night of January 27, 1835. The granite facade of the old church, which was preserved intact, is said to have been built by Japanese stonemasons, brought to Macao for this purpose. The following description of its architecture is given by Ljungstedt:

"The ingenious artist has contrived to enliven Grecian architecture by devotional objects. In the middle of the ten pillars of Ionic order are three doors, leading to the temple; then above range ten pillars of Corinthian order, which constitute five separate niches. In the middle one, above the principal door, we perceive a female figure, trampling on the globe, the emblem of human patriotism, and underneath we read *Mater Dei*. On each side of the Queen of Heaven, in distinct places, are four statues of Jesuit Saints. In the superior division, St. Paul is represented, and also a dove, the emblem of the Holy Ghost."

"In 1838 the side-walls of the church, which, though of great thickness, were considered unsafe, were cut down to a height of about 25 feet, and were cut away on the inside to form shelves which were used as a place of interment for Roman Catholics. The Rev. J. A. Gonsalves, well known to students of Chinese by his works on that language, was buried here. The building has been finally closed for some years past."

When Macao was being attacked, one Fr. Rho did yeoman service with a big gun, and "W. L. H." says

"So grateful were the colonists for Fr. Rho's services at the critical moment, that they resolved that St. Paul's should be completed without further delay. It was really a beautiful church, as is amply testified by the monumental facade still standing almost intact. Fr. Jarrio, the historian of the Indian missions, says that St. Paul's of Macao was similar to St. Paul's of Goa. The facade is all of granite, richly sculptured with allegorical and mystical devices, the only fault perhaps to be found with it being that

it appears somewhat over-charged. Only the front was of granite; the walls were massive structures of a kind of concrete, composed principally of ferruginous sand from decomposed granite, mixed with mud from the river and a little lime.

Fr. Alexander de Rhodes, S.J., the celebrated missionary of Cochinchina, writing from Macao in 1623, says of St. Paul's College and church: "Our Society has a large college here which can be compared with the finest in Europe. At least the church is the most magnificent I have seen, even in Italy, excepting St. Peter's of Rome." There may perhaps be some exaggeration in this judgment of the enthusiastic missionary, but his words are on record to show at least what impression the edifice made upon him. The writer has had the good fortune of hearing an old and highly honoured Portuguese native of the colony grow enthusiastic over the beauty of St. Paul's when it still stood in the first quarter of the century. The woodwork particularly, executed entirely by skilled Japanese workmen, was praised as exquisitely beautiful.

The church stood until 1835, when it was burnt down one blustering wintry night. The frontispiece, as has been said, still stands almost intact, with even the fine bronze statues of Our Lady, of St. Paul, and four Jesuit saints still in their niches."

THE FIRE AT WEST POINT.

INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz opened an inquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at Chung Kan Lane, West Point, on the 23rd November. The Magistrate said that under an Ordinance of 1895 the Captain-Superintendent of Police had taken possession of the premises, and on the report which he furnished he (Mr. Gompertz) had decided to hold this inquiry.

Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the following insurance companies:—The London and Lancashire, the Sun, the Royal, the Hip On, the Yee On, the Commercial Union, the Tung On, the Fuk On, and l'Union, all of which were interested in godown No. 3. Mr. Coppin represented the Northern Insurance Company, which was interested in godowns No. 1 and 2. Mr. Chang Yu Fan represented the Yan On Insurance Company, which was interested in godown No. 4, and Mr. Leung Yan Kwai represented the Un On Insurance Company, which was interested in Godowns No. 1 and 2.

The first witness called was Ip Chou Wing, who deposed: I am assistant manager of the Fau Fung Company, of Wing Lok Street. On the 27th Nov., shortly after 4 p.m., a messenger called to inform me that the godown next to No. 3, Chung Kan Lane, was on fire. I went down and saw that several of the godowns were burning, but could not get near them. The godown owned by my firm, No. 3, contained 5,584 bags of rice, each weighing 190lbs. The rice was of different qualities. There were also 875 casks of broken glass and 21 bags of brass; 11 bundles of brass tubes, and 10 bags of cotton wool weighing 145 piculs. The goods were the property of the firm, and were insured for \$55,000 in eight different companies. The books in the godown were entirely burnt, but the Police have some books which were in my shop. The godown keeper kept the books of the godown and made the entries.

By Mr. Looker: There are six partners in my shop. Ho Chung Lam is the managing partner. He was not in Hongkong at the date of the fire. All the six partners manage the business. I know what goods were in the godown on the date of the fire by looking at the books. Two of the shop coolies look after the placing of goods in the godown. I am in charge of the rice stored there, and am continually receiving cargoes and delivering them out. I visited the godown about a fortnight before the fire. I do not know where the rice was stored. The foki keeps the godown book. The selling price of rice is marked therein. Some of the rice in the godown was sold, but not delivered at the time of the fire. I have taken out ten policies in respect of No. 3, Chung Kan Lane.

Ip Tsa said: I am the Fau Fung godown-keeper. Prior to the fire I lived inside the

godown. I kept the key and books. On the night of the fire I was on the ground floor of the godown. I heard people calling out "Fire," in No. 2 Godown. I ran out to look, and shut the door. I saw a lot of smoke at No. 2 godown. On opening the door of my godown I found the smoke entering from No. 2 godown. I locked the door, and ran to the shop at Wing Lok Street, and told a foki.

By Mr. Looker: I keep one book showing what goods go in and out of the godown. When I heard the noise I went into No. 2 godown and saw smoke and flames. The coolies were trying to put the fire out. When I returned to my godown the smoke was coming through. I would not go upstairs because there was too much smoke. The godown is lighted by oil lamps. We use groundnut oil. There is also kerosene on the premises.

The case was adjourned.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz continued on the 3rd inst. the inquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at Chung Kan Lane, West Point, on the 23rd November.

As before, Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the following insurance companies:—The London and Lancashire, the Sun, the Royal, the Hip On, the Yee On, the Commercial Union, the Tung On, the Fuk On, and l'Union, all of which were interested in godown No. 3. Mr. Coppin represented the Northern Insurance Company, which was interested in godowns No. 1 and 2. Mr. Chang Yu Fan represented the Yan On Insurance Company, which was interested in godown No. 4, and Mr. Leung Yan Kwai represented the Un On Insurance Company, which was interested in Godowns No. 1 and 2.

Yuen Coon Yue, partner in the Nan Fat Yuen, gave evidence that his firm had rice, rice husks, bags and other goods there and were interested in the destroyed godowns. They were interested in No. 4 godown to the extent of about \$43,000 and Nos. 1 and 2 for about \$46,000. The total insurance effected was about \$80,000, which was effected with five different companies. No. 2 godown was filled with rice, but No. 1 was not. The two godowns together contained about 3,200 bags of rice, and also about 13,000 bags of husks and 11,000 bags of meal.

Ip Choy, keeper of No. 4 godown, stated that he saw the bags of rice husks, which were stored near the wall which adjoined No. 3, burning in No. 2. They being unable to extinguish the flames he ran to No. 4 to get his books, and when he came out again No. 4 had taken fire. Some coolies with lamps were working in No. 2 when the fire broke out.

After further evidence the enquiry was adjourned.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz on the 5th instant continued the inquiry into the cause of the fire which occurred at Chung Kan Lane, West Point, on the 23rd November.

Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon) again represented the following insurance companies:—The London and Lancashire, the Sun, the Royal, the Hip On, the Yee On, the Commercial Union, the Tung On, the Fuk On, and l'Union, all of which were interested in godown No. 3. Mr. Coppin represented the Northern Insurance Company, which was interested in Godowns No. 1 and 2. Mr. Chang Yu Fan represented the Yan On Insurance Company, which was interested in godown No. 4, and Mr. Leung Yan Kwai represented the Un On Insurance Company, which was interested in Godowns No. 1 and 2.

Other Chinese witnesses were called. They repudiated their former statements that they suspected that coolies knocked over a lamp when carrying bags, and so set fire to the rice husks.

P.S. Hedge, a fireman in the Brigade, said that on the 23rd November the alarm was sounded at the Central at 4.10 p.m. On reaching the place he saw P.S. Watt. The doors of No. 2 and 3 godowns were locked, but that of No. 4 was open—that was at about half-past four. With the assistance of P.S. Watt he got the hose into No. 4 godown, the roof of which was already alight. The water was then turned on, and they began to

play it on to the fire. To get at the flames a little better they went up some stairs situated between Nos. 3 and 4 godowns, and on reaching about half way up reached an archway which was boarded up. Fire falling from up above on the stairs, the partition mentioned caught alight. They therefore played the hose on this partition, and the force of water broke it in. He was thus enabled to see into No. 3 godown:—in the centre of it, between the pillars, there were three small heaps of rice, and also another heap on the right-hand side against the wall. He was then unable to see what was on the other side of the godown, or at the further end. About an hour and a half after his arrival the first floor of No. 3 godown fell in, and when this happened there appeared to be nothing below for it to fall on. He remained playing water on Nos. 3 and 4 godowns till about half-past ten o'clock, and then left off. When he looked into No. 3 he would say he saw roughly a hundred bags of rice.

P.-C. Shepherd, another Brigade man, said that on arriving on the scene he saw the doors of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 godowns all locked with padlocks, but the door of No. 4 godown was open. Ten minutes later the roof of No. 3 fell in, the door of 2 broke out, and No. 4 caught fire. He was the first European constable on the scene, though an Indian P.-C.—No. 502 he thought—was there before him; this man was running out a despatch box when witness arrived.

P.S. Watt gave evidence. There was nothing in No. 3 godown; if there had been it could not have burnt up in the time it did.

Two Chinese interpreters certified that statements now denied by former witnesses were correct.

The enquiry was further adjourned, Mr. Gompertz signifying his intention to visit the spot.

INQUIRY CLOSED.

The inquiry into the cause of the West Point fire was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 6th inst.

Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon), Mr. Coppin, Mr. Chang Yu Fan, and Mr. Leung Yan Kwai, again represented the insurance companies previously enumerated.

Lui Chui, recalled, examined by Mr. Looker:—I was engaged between twenty and twenty-five minutes in trying to put out the fire. There were about twenty people assisting me. We all left the godown at the same time. The door was not locked.

Another godown coolie examined by Mr. Looker, said:—I was engaged about five minutes trying to put out the fire. There was a great number with me. The key of the godown was lost. It was my duty to lock the door, but I was confused and did not take the key. After everybody had gone out of the godown it was not locked. The key is still lost.

Henry Garrett, P.S. 33, said:—Shortly after 4 p.m. on the 23rd November, I received word of a fire at West Point. I went into Chung Kan Lane and saw there was fire in the godowns. I got an axe and tried to knock the bolts and fastenings off the doors. I got them off No. 1 and 2 godowns, but was unsuccessful at No. 3 owing to the smoke. I was told to leave No. 3 godown then, as small collapses had started. I went outside and commenced pumping with the engines.

By Mr. Looker: There were no Chinese about in the lane. I examined the contents of No. 3 godown the day after the fire. About 300 bags of rice, copper-tubing, and some bundles of old glass were stored there. The godown was about one-third full of goods.

This concluded the case for the Police.

Mr. Looker said he had no further witnesses to call. He would leave it entirely to His Worship as to whether he felt justified in committing anybody for trial. No doubt the case was very suspicious. The Chinese had come with a nice little story to tell, but some of them had been found out to be telling untruths.

His Worship had considered the evidence carefully, and very grave suspicion surrounded the whole circumstances of the fire. There was, however, no such evidence against any particular person or persons as to enable him to commit them for trial. The inquiry may have brought out collateral facts which may be useful to

people interested. There was no material for entering a criminal charge, but there were such grave suspicions surrounding the fire that he should have been exceedingly glad to have been able to bring a charge against some person. The case had been well worked up by Inspector Collett, and the salvage was almost complete. He would therefore close the inquiry and order the premises to be released.

DUKE OF ABRUZZI AT HONGKONG.

The Italian cruiser *Liguria*, under the command of the Duke of Abruzzi, arrived from Shanghai on the 4th inst., and was visited by Chev. Z. Volpicelli (Consul-General for Italy) and Mr. R. Pescio (Italian commercial agent).

The Prince has taken up his profession very seriously, this being his second trip around the world as a naval officer. On the first occasion—on board the *Umbria* in 1895—he was a sub-lieutenant and performed his duties just like any other junior naval officer. He is a very remarkable man, and this would be more generally recognised if he were not of royal blood. The fact, indeed, of his being a prince has thrown his work to a great extent in the background. He was the first man to make the ascent of Mount St. Elias, in Alaska, a very difficult task on account of its very northerly latitude. There were enormous glaciers almost from its very base. The altitude of Mount St. Elias is 14,970 feet. He is an enthusiastic sportsman, and has encouraged football amongst the naval officers. He recently owned one of the finest yachts in the Mediterranean. Out of his own pocket he furnished the *Stella Polare* expedition to the North Pole, and succeeded in penetrating to the highest latitude yet reached, getting farther north than Nansen.

The *Liguria* will probably remain here about eight days.

THE RICE EXCHANGE AND FOREIGNERS.

The following letter, written to the *Chronicle* by Mr. M. Z. Martin, a Kobe merchant, will be of interest to many. It was dated 18th November, and read: With reference to the letters under the above heading appearing in your issue of yesterday and to-day the facts of the case briefly stated are as follows:—

Having purchased a quantity of Japanese rice through the Kobe Rice Exchange for August and September delivery, I found that very inferior rice was delivered to me without making any due allowance for its quality. Thus instead of reducing 80 sen to one yen per koku for Kayetzu rice they reduced only 40 sen.

On my remonstrating with my brokers against such matters, I did not receive a satisfactory reply. I was, however, informed by them through many an innuendo that certain practices prevailed at the Kobe Rice Exchange which, if not checked in time by the authorities, would be very prejudicial not only to the interests of the foreigners dealing with it, but also to the Exchange itself.

Again, having had to purchase a very large quantity of Japanese rice for October delivery, and this time to the value of over half a million yen, I was strongly advised by my brokers to go to Tokyo and represent matters to his Excellency the Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, which I did; and this resulted in the arrival here of one of the chief officials, not only to investigate the abuses complained of and to enforce the strict observance of the rules and regulations of the Exchange, but also to see that "the largest delivery of rice ever effected since the Exchange was organised" should be done in proper order.

I need not say that His Excellency received me very graciously, as also my petition, which was signed at my special request by some of my friends. I was fully assured by His Excellency that he would see that foreigners did not suffer in any way in their dealings with the Kobe Rice Exchange.

It may not be out of place to state in this connection that my principal broker, Mr. Masutani, was assaulted in the street by four vagabonds, who would have done him to death but for the timely arrival of help, and that I had to seek and obtain the assistance of the

police to protect my person against violence for a few days, which protection was kindly granted by our Superintendent of Police.

THE CHINESE IN JAVA.

An Australian mining expert had the following to say, to an interviewer, about a trip he had just made to Java.

I went through Java, and found it the beauty spot of the earth so far as my experience goes. In that island over 20,000,000 of people are working quietly and peacefully, and are governed very easily by the Dutch on the Crown Colony system. The Dutch manage to keep the Chinese in their places, and do not allow them to flaunt their wealth as they do at Singapore, for instance, where they quite overshadow the Europeans by their ostentatious magnificence. If Australians want a charming trip they cannot do better than make a round trip of Java. There they will see mountains 12,000ft. high, active volcanoes, Buddhist temples 2,000 years old, and evidences of the old barbaric splendour, which must have been gorgeous in the time when Java was divided into three kingdoms, each fighting the other. Batavia, the present capital, is one of the most charming places that a person can visit. The Weltevreden, the best suburb of Batavia, is a beautiful place. Its shops are like palaces, and the hotels, huge and comfortable establishments, are almost hidden in luxuriant gardens. The Museum is filled with native weapons of war and torture from the East Indies, and they are most barbaric in their terrible ingenuity. They could not have been surpassed in the dark days of the Spanish inquisition. The King's Square in Batavia is the largest in the world. Truly I have never seen anything to approach it. It is a place one would love to live in and regret to ever leave. The Dutch people are most courteous and kind to strangers in every way. As regards the commercial side of the country it is rich and prosperous.

I was amazed to see the vast quantity of machinery employed in connection with the sugar industry. At one place I visited they crush 500 tons of cane a day, and they intend doubling their crushing power. Java last year produced eight million pounds' worth of sugar, and, in addition to providing herself with almost everything the people want, has an enormous export trade. It is indeed a fine island, rich, and well governed. The whole secret of the latter is, I believe, to be found in the abstemiousness of the population. The Javanese, being Mahomedans, are abstainers, and the Dutch drink very little.

The hotels—these are hotels—and not drinking shops; in fact I never saw a drunken man while I was in the colony. I left Java with much regret, and came straight home via Singapore. I may add that the way the Dutch handle the natives seems to realise everything that could be desired in that connection. There is no tyranny, the native is free to do as he likes, the people fortunately do not congregate in big towns, but prefer their small villages, and everybody seems happy and contented. The railways are run cheaply and economically, and, as they are all paid for, travelling is comparatively cheap. Other colonising nations might well take an example from such places as Java.

ALLEGED THEFT OF \$25,000.

R. D. Vania, a Parsee residing at No. 16, Gage Street, at the Magistracy on the 5th inst. applied for a summons against another Parsee, on a charge of unlawfully stealing, in the year 1900, the sum of \$25,000, being the proceeds of a sale of two houses on Lot 59, on the Shameen at Canton.

Mr. Gompertz said that under the circumstances, the charge being a very grave one, he would require more than a verbal application. He asked how long the man had been in the Colony.

Complainant said that the man he charged had been in the Colony five years, while he himself had been in the Colony fifteen years.

Mr. Gompertz repeated that he required an application in writing and recommended the complainant to see Mr. Hallifax.

HANKOW-CANTON RAILWAY.

It is reported in several native papers that both the gentry and Governor of Hunan had respectively wired to Wang Chih-chun, a cashiered governor of Kwangsi, protesting against the idea of having a new American Chinese Syndicate to take up the concession of the Hankow-Canton Railway and urging the importance of taking over the concession into the hands of a purely Chinese concessionaire. Then the cashiered governor is reported to have answered that he understands now the gentry of Hunan, Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and Governor of Hunan, are all against the proposed American-Chinese Syndicate to take over the concession of Hankow-Canton Railway and that all of them are accusing him of having proposed to despatch a delegate to the United States to discuss the matter with the American China Development Company, but the report is not true, and that all that he has done is to cancel the original concession now in the hands of the American China Development Company and to establish a new concern so as to keep the concession in the hands of the three provinces where the railway line will pass through. The matter must have been misunderstood, he asserts, owing to the telegraphic message being too short, and further details of his view are being stated in the telegram already despatched to the Viceroys and Governors concerned, and they will see the message and thus avoid any further misunderstanding, etc.

The Chinese Minister at Washington has wired to the Peking authorities that the American China Development Company has already instituted litigation against the Chinese Railway Administration asking the payment of damages and costs of the litigation.

A further report says that both Teng Hua-hai and Wang Chih-chun have wired to the concerned to the following effect. Mr. Bash is not a financier himself. It is also reported that the U.S. President objects to there being too many Belgian shares and has an idea of forming a joint concern with American and Chinese capital in it, and that both ex-governors Teng and Wang have the idea of despatching a delegate to America to conclude the dispute amicably. But this must not be brought to the knowledge of both Wu Ting-fang and Chang Chen-hsun and that Chan Chen-hsun be warned not to come down to Shanghai.

Mr. Bash has conferred on the matter of Hankow-Canton Railway at Peking with Prince Ching and Grand Councillor Chu Hung-ohi, and as the result of the same the Waiwupu has given Mr. Bash a letter advising him to go to Wuchang to consult with Viceroy Chang Chih-tung in the matter, and that this arrangement had been suggested owing to the fact that there are differences of opinion between Wang Chih-chun and the gentry of Hunan and then between Wang Chih-chun and Teng Hua-hai on the one part and Chang Chen-hsun and Wu Ting-fang on the matter.

CHINESE PARIAS.

The following interesting explanation of a recent Chinese Decree emancipating the "Dobee" of Chékiang, was written by the native news editor of the *N.-C. Daily News*:—"The 'T'o-ming,' which in the letters of the decree means 'degraded people,' but which are ordinarily written with the letters bearing the same sound phonetically but a different meaning, that is to say, the 'exiled people,' are descendants of the Mongols who came to China in the 13th century with Genghis Khan, the famous Mongol conqueror of a large part of the two continents of Europe and Asia. After Genghis Khan (whose dynasty is called in Chinese history the Chin, or 'Gold' dynasty) had conquered about half of the then Chinese Empire, southwards, down to the northern banks of the Yangtze, driving the Emperor Kao Tsung of the Sung dynasty south of the river, he (Genghis Khan) left the work of completing the conquest to his principal General Hu Pih-li (named Kublai Khan by Marco Polo in his book of travels) while he himself started in his Western career of conquest into Europe. Hu Pih-li proclaimed himself Emperor of China in A.D. 1275 under the name

of Shih Tsung and with the dynastic title of Yuan, or Primordial. The Yuan dynasty existed not quite one hundred years, but during that time the unlucky people of China had cause to curse the very name of Mongol, for the Mongols governed most cruelly and sanguinarily—to put it mildly. Hence when they were driven out of the country by the first Emperor of the Ming dynasty (the predecessor of the present Manchu) Chu T'ai-tsu, known officially as the Emperor Hung Wu, a general crusade was made by the exasperated Chinese against the Mongols who remained in the country. These and those who were captured in war by the Chinese troops were banished principally to Ningpo and Canton and there made to suffer all sorts of degradations, in revenge for the cruelties their fathers had made the Chinese suffer. A Mongol exile, or T'o-ming, colloquially called "Do-bee," was treated like a very slave. He was not allowed to go to school nor to become an official. He could only be a barber, chiropodist, laundryman, or servant of the lowest class, while his women-folk had to be female hairdressers (for Chinese ladies), waitresses upon brides at weddings, washer-women, and do similar manual work. In Canton these exiled Mongols were treated with the same cruelty; for years there was no law for them, there was neither justice nor redress for such slaves. Only the most degraded, in Chinese estimation, menial work was for such exiles, while in Canton they were compelled to keep themselves in boats—hence their designation T'ing-chia (Canton colloquial, Tang ka) or boat population, none of whom was permitted to live on land or own a foot of it with the single exception of six feet of burial ground. In the first years of the Ming dynasty, the conquerors of the Mongols, these boat people were not allowed even to be buried on land; their corpses were either cast into the river or cremated.

While the unfortunate Mongol exiles in Chékiang province have, by the Emperor's benevolent decree, been emancipated, the same is not apparent in the case of their compatriots, the "Tang-ka" of Canton, in Kuang-tung province. Doubtless some philanthropic person among the Cantonese gentry, seeing the success attending the efforts of the Chékiang notables, will follow their example and obtain the franchise and privileges of full citizenship for his townsmen, the Mongolian boating population of Canton.

MANCHU AND CHINESE.

Mr. G. M. H. Playfair of Foochow writes in the *N.-C. Daily News*:

It is no doubt within the recollection of many that Li Hung Chang was, during his own lifetime, the object of a similar breach of conventionality [to that which recently appointed Li Hung Chang's grandson Grand Chamberlain.] On the death of his mother, instead of being required to relinquish office, and retire into mourning for 27 months, as would have been the case with every other Chinese functionary, he was ordered to retain his various offices and to mourn for one month only, as if he were a Manchu. In this case, however, the device was merely intended to meet an emergency, and there was no intention that it should form a precedent.

The appointment of his grandson to be Grand Chamberlain must be consigned to a different category; it is a concrete instance of a reform which was introduced some time ago by the Dowager Empress and of which no great notice seems to have been taken. This was the abolition of the hard-and-fast line of demarcation which had existed between Manchus and Chinese ever since the establishment of this dynasty. For instance, intermarriage was forbidden; it is now allowed. Many official positions which formerly were conferred on Manchus alone, are now open to Chinese also. This was strikingly exemplified when the Customs Taotai at Tientsin, T'ang Shao-yi, was named for a special mission to Tibet. In the first place no mission to Tibet had ever been confided to a Chinese before; in the second place, along with his commission, T'ang received the rank of Fu Tu-t'ung (Deputy Lieutenant-General), a rank peculiar to the Manchu army. I had fancied that T'ang's was

the first instance of such a bestowal of a Manchu military rank, but I have been told by the Foochow officials that a Chinese holding the same has been recently sent to duty at Tsitsihar.

Several superfluous posts have of late been abolished in the provinces; Grain Intendencies for the most part. It is rumoured that the continued existence of the Hoppo at Canton is threatened; also that there are to be no more Governors in such provinces as have already a Viceroy. All this seems to signify that the Empress Dowager is inclined to inaugurate the very reforms on account of which Kuang-Hsi was deposed in 1898. Indeed she seems wishful to "go one better."

LOCAL EXPERIMENT WITH LIQUID FUEL.

A demonstration of the practicability of liquid fuel was given on board the *s.s. Goldmouth*, in Hongkong Harbour on Dec. 5th. Invitations had been issued from Capt. Starkey through Messrs. Arnold, Karberg and Co. Included among the visitors were Messrs. E. Goetz, C. A. H. Westensburger, E. Arndt, F. F. Bovet (Arnhold, Karberg and Co.), A. Forbes (Bradley and Co.), Kraay (Asiatic Petroleum Co.), Capt. Cocker (Imperial Customs), E. A. Hewett (P. & O.), Newman Mumford (Lloyd's Surveyor), F. Miller (Bradley and Co.), O. Struckmeyer (Siemssen and Co.), P. E. Hermann (Gaupp and Co.), F. Nicolai (Hamburg-America Line), Captain Engineer Hurst, Captain Blake (Naval Yard), Captain Montague, E.D.E., J. W. Bolles (Standard Oil Co.), J. L. Houston (Naval Yard), W. S. Bailey (Bailey and Co.), Souchow, Girstenbraun (Hamburg-Amerika Line), Captain Lieut. Von Egidy, Engineer Lemke, Engineer Boelke and Staff Paymaster Lehmann (*Fuerst Bismarck*).

Anchor was weighed and the vessel proceeded on a trip with Mr. J. McIlroy, pilot, on the bridge. The run was to near Kellet Bank, east of Lamma Island, Cape D'Aguilar, south of "Bokhara" Rocks, and home by way of the Lyemooon Pass.

The fuel was smokeless; no stokers; the furnaces were easy to feed by means of taps (it is sprayed into the furnace by means of a steam pipe); the fuel is easy to take on board; no dirt; pumps act as an equivalent of trimmers; six firemen instead of about nineteen, which number would be required in a coal steamer of the same size; 35 tons of liquid fuel per day is used by the *Goldmouth* as against 45 tons of coal.

The *Goldmouth*, which is operated by the Shell Transport Co., has a cargo carrying capacity of 7,446 tons.

JAPANESE IN COREA.

We regret to notice of late, says a contemporary, in a letter from Corea, more and more lawlessness on the part of the Japanese. The morning paper of to-day tells of two cases where Corean labourers were set upon and killed by Japanese savages. One in Ko-yang country near Seoul, and one to the west of Pyong-an. A week or two ago a Mr. Engel, an Australian missionary of Fusan, was seriously injured, and yesterday a foreign physician in Seoul was attacked on his own ground by Japanese trespassers. One does not mind for foreigners so much, they can take care of themselves, but the helpless Coreans, who are exposed to the fury of every bad-tempered navy or railway coolie, are greatly to be pitied. If the Japanese authorities would publicly shoot or hang every Japanese who beats a Corean to death, there would soon be an end to the lawlessness, but there seems to be a weakness on the part of the Government, in dealing with their own people, that looks ominous for the future. It is too early yet to judge; we shall wait to see, trusting most earnestly that Japan may prove herself worthy of the great task that has been thrust upon her by the events of the last few months. Already there are murmurings heard on all sides against her injustice, and some of us who are sincere friends of Japan regret to see it.

CHURCHES FOR KOWLOON.

SIR PAUL CHATER'S GIFT.

The foundation stone of a new church at Kowloon will be laid next Tuesday. The inscription is as follows:—

This foundation stone was laid by Rt. Rev. J. C. Hoare, D.D., Bishop of Victoria, December 15th, 1904. This church erected and presented to the Colony by Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G.

The Government gave a free grant of 67,500 square feet for the church, the site being in Robinson Road, Kowloon, next to the school presented to the Colony by Mr. Ho Tung. It is to be erected at a cost of \$40,000; and named St. Andrew's Church. It will be built of red brick. There will be seating accommodation for about three hundred persons. At either corner of the western elevation there will be an entrance, the Baptistry being on one side, and a tower on the other. The columns are of marble.

DR. A. S. GOMES' GIFT.

On the 9th inst. the laying and the blessing of the foundation stone of a new Roman Catholic Church at Kowloon took place. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. P. de Maria, the pro-Vicar Apostolic, in the absence of Bishop Piazzoli. The building will occupy a superficial area of about 4,500 square feet, and will have seating accommodation for 600 persons. The length from the porch to the main altar will be 106 feet, while the width of the nave will be 35 feet. The nave is 68 feet long and the main altar and chancel will be 21 feet. There will be three altars; the main one will be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of Pompeii, and the two smaller ones to St. John the Baptist and St. Anthony respectively. The vestry will be on the left of the chancel and the organ will be placed on the right. The outward appearance of the church will be as beautiful when completed as red brick can be. There will be a tower for the bells. The height of the spire will be about 50 feet. The plan and the design were prepared by Messrs. Palmer and Turner, and the total cost of building, which is at present estimated at \$23,000, will be defrayed by Dr. A. S. Gomes. It is expected that the church will be ready by April or May next year. The Roman Catholics at Kowloon are very grateful to Dr. Gomes for this generous gift.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE.

On the 9th instant His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, accompanied by his A.D.C. and the Rev. Father Maria, visited St. Joseph's College. On arrival the students sang a hymn of welcome and presented him with the following amusing address:—To Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong. Your Excellency.—We the students of St. Joseph's College heartily unite in a chorus of welcome and congratulation to Your Excellency, on your first appearance in this establishment. It is hardly necessary to remind Your Excellency that we are utterly incapable of getting up an address equal to your merit and dignity, but we indulge in the hope that you will be so good as to take the will for the deed. We recognise in Your Excellency, not merely the head of His Majesty's Government entitled to our loyalty; not merely the benevolent Governor of Hongkong well deserving of our affection. We see especially in Your Excellency a true-hearted Educationist, solicitous not only for the wealthy few, but for the great mass of the rising generation. On the advantage of Your Excellency's correspondence we rest the strongest hopes of our future success, and trust we shall ever prove worthy of your support and confidence. As regards our scholastic acquirements we have but little to say. While we believe that some progress has been made in our studies, so far as immediate practical utility is concerned, we cannot conceal from ourselves and Your Excellency the fact that further knowledge and practice are not only possible, but would be advantageous. This splendid building on a very desirable site and so well adapted for its purpose as an educational establishment, represents rather our aspirations and the expectations of our friends than the extent of our knowledge.

It will be gratifying to Your Excellency to know that, with particular pleasure, we look forward to the Prize Distribution. We believe that prizes like steadfast labour and habits of clear perception are things to be desired as tending to our higher development, and ought therefore to be encouraged as one of the most valuable means of education. And on this ground we desire to express our earnest hope that, with your accustomed kindness and courtesy, you will not allow any other engagement to stand in the way of your coming to preside and distribute the prizes. We wish your Excellency may have many years to live in happiness and prosperity. We feel that any attempt on our part to acknowledge in a fitting manner the favour conferred must be unsuccessful, and by very far fall short of our feelings. However please accept our humble thanks for your goodness and kindness and believe us to remain in the sentiments of the deepest gratitude, The Pupils of St. Joseph's College.

His Excellency, in thanking the boys for their address, said he would not fail to come back on the 17th to distribute the prizes on the occasion of the closing of the college for the Christmas vacation.

Sir Matthew then made an inspection of the college and expressed himself as well pleased with the arrangements throughout, also with the prompt answers of the boys he questioned on various subjects. He secured for them a half holiday before leaving, and on taking his departure the college choir struck up "God save the King." The boys were drawn up outside the door in two lines, and as His Excellency walked between them he was heartily cheered, and cheered again until he was out of sight.

ROMAN CATHOLIC FESTIVAL.

JUBILEE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
The 8th inst. the Roman Catholic community of Hongkong fittingly began the celebration of the Jubilee of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The week had been set apart by the Pope for this celebration in every part of the world where the Roman Catholic faith is professed. Hongkong not being a Roman Catholic city, of course, the celebrations are not carried out on such an extensive and elaborate scale as in Macao and other Catholic cities. The Catholic community of Hongkong, composed mostly of Portuguese, took a loyal part. Subscription was started to defray the cost of carrying out the celebrations, and a sum of \$2,300 was collected. A committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements, and their efforts were crowned with success. The decorations of the interior and exterior of the Cathedral and Campanile at Glenealy were very fine. The interior of the Cathedral after being lime-washed was plainly but tastefully decorated with a profusion of palms and plants in pots from the Botanical Department and fresh flowers, while the arches along both sides of the nave were draped with blue and white festoons, the whole surmounted by an immense crown in the centre of the aisle also draped with blue and white cloth and illuminated by tiny electric bulbs. The main altar, where the full size statue of the Blessed Virgin was placed under a gilt canopy, received special attention from the decoration committee, the granite columns on both sides of the altar were entwined with white artificial flowers, while the arches were also draped in the same manner as the nave. The halo around the Virgin's head was of gold and silver set with real gems, and being illuminated by electricity the refraction of light through the gems produced very beautiful prismatic effects. The halo was presented by a few Portuguese ladies and gentlemen—the value of the gold and silver alone is \$400. The arrangements outside of the Cathedral for the illuminations were also very tasteful. The Cathedral building was illuminated by numerous Chinese lanterns. On the facade of the Campanile there was a transparent image of the Virgin surmounted by the device *Ave Maria* and a crown all illuminated by coloured electric bulbs. The effects produced were magnificent.

THE SERVICE.

The service commenced in the morning by a solemn high mass at 8 o'clock; the officiating priest was the Rev. P. de Maria, assisted by all the Roman Catholic priests in the Colony. The congregation was a large one and almost filled the Cathedral. The music of the mass was very well sung by a special choir under the leadership of the organist, Mr. O. Baptista, and accompanied by the members of the *Sociedade Philharmonica*. The music was by Mercandante. The service was solemn and impressive. In the afternoon the service started at 4.30 with a sermon, followed by an imposing procession around the Cathedral compound, which was followed by the congregation, the boys of the St. Joseph's College, the girls from the Italian and French Convents and members of the various religious confraternities. The Band of the *Sociedade Philharmonica* again supplied the music. The service concluded with the Benediction. The attendance during the afternoon service was even larger than that in the morning. Special seats were reserved for the following consuls of Roman Catholic nations: Senhor Conselheiro Romano (Portugal and Brazil), Chev. Z. Volpicelli (Italy), Monsieur G. Liebert (France), Senor D. A. Pierre Marty (Spain), Monsieur T. H. Hamman (Belgium), Monsieur Nicholas Post (Austria-Hungary), Senor D. Eduardo Muelle (Peru), Comendador J. J. Leiria (Vice-Consul, Portugal), Mr. F. D. Barretto (Mexico), Senor D. Bernedo (Chili), and Dr. A. B. Zannetti (Cuba). In the evening there was general illumination of the Cathedral and the Campanile. A large crowd of spectators assembled in the compound to witness the illuminations, and they were enlivened by the Band of the 110th Mahratta Infantry who played a selection of music. Various Roman Catholic buildings and institutions were also illuminated. Among these we noticed the Italian, French and Spanish Mission houses, the Italian and French Convents, the club building of the Catholic Union, the St. Joseph's College, the Club Lusitano, the residence of Senhor Romano, and various other private residences. The celebrations on Sunday were (the concluding day of the Jubilee) were the same as on Thursday in the morning, and in the afternoon, instead of the procession, a *Te Deum* was sung at 5 o'clock, concluding with the Benediction.

ROYAL ENGINEERS' BALL.

The officers of the Royal Engineers gave a very enjoyable ball at the City Hall on 7th inst. About two hundred were present. St. Andrew's and St. George's Halls were used for dancing. Included among those present were His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., and Capt. Smith, A.D.C.; His Excellency Major General Villiers Hatton, C.B., Mrs. Hatton, and Capt. Ward, A.D.C.; Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.; Col. Mosse; and Col. Iremonger.

The arrangements were all conducted by the officers of the Royal Engineers, who were also responsible for the decorations. The staircase was tastefully laid out with palms, lanterns and bunting, special features being two mines at the foot and two figures dressed up in diving suits, and holding trays of dance programmes, at the top. There were also four little brass howitzers on the landing. The halls were nicely decorated with flags and shields kindly lent by the St. Andrew's Committee. There were ten waltzes on the programme. An excellent supper was provided. Dancing was kept up till about half past one in the morning.

The Rt. Rev. J. C. Hoare, Bishop of Victoria, on Dec. 11th gave a lecture at the Y.M.C.A. rooms on "Coincidences of modern discovery with the Bible." His address, he said, was not any kind of an argument in defence of the Bible; he merely wanted to give a few coincidences in which the Bible was borne out by modern discovery. For example, it was a curious coincidence that a viper hung to St. Paul's hand in Malta. Who ever heard of a viper doing such a thing as that? It was a fact, however, that the only snakes in the world with this peculiarity were in Malta.

ESTATE SALES.

Two houses belonging to the estate of Mr. W. Stuart Harrison, deceased, the late manager of the Telephone Company, were auctioned by Mr. T. Hough, of Messrs. Hughes and Hough, on the 7th instant. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, appeared as solicitor for the executor.

"CHELTONDALE."

The first lot to be put up was "Cheltondale," situated at Mount Gough, the Peak. The premises are situated on Sub-section 1 of Section C and Section G of Rural Building Lot No. 9 and Section A of Inland Lot No. 1376. Rural Building Lot No. 9 is held for the residue of a term of 75 years created by the Crown Lease thereof and Inland Lot No. 1376 is held on a yearly tenancy from the Crown. The proportion of Crown Rent payable in respect of Rural Building Lot No. 9 is \$3.50 and the present proportion of annual rent payable in respect of Section A of Inland Lot No. 1376 is \$7.50.

This lot was purchased by the Brothers R. and H. Hancock for \$16,000. The purchasers were tenants occupying the house at the time of sale.

NO. 7, STEWART TERRACE.

The next lot was No. 7, Stewart Terrace, situate on the remaining portion of Section C of Rural Building Lot No. 9, held for the residue of a term of 75 years created by the Crown Lease of the Lot, the proportion of Crown Rent being \$3.35. Possession will be given on the 1st day of January, 1905.

This was purchased by Mr. E. Osborne for \$9,850.

With reference to each lot, it was optional for the vendors to leave two-thirds of the purchase money on mortgage at eight per cent.

HONGKONG CLUB BOWLING HANDICAP.

NOVEMBER, 1904.

Result:—				
Name	Gross H'cap	Nett Place.		
J. W. C. Bonnar	3719 scratch	3719	2nd	
J. Hooper	3718	3718	3rd	
T. C. Gray	3265 450	3715	4th	
Lt. Snowdon, R.N.	3074 700	3774	1st	
C. H. Gale	3065 350	3415	6th	
H. Hancock	2882 300	3182	9th	
Lt. Bosanquet, R.N.	2842 600	3442	5th	
P. R. Wolff	2685 550	3235	8th	
Capt. Harris, R.M.A.	2629 700	3329	7th	
P. W. Goldring	2458 650	3108	10th	
J. R. Wood	2102 900	3002	11th	
C. E. H. Beavis, C. P. Chater, E. H. Hinds, J. H. Kemp, and Lient. Holden, R.N., did not finish.				
P. H. Holyoak and W. B. Walker scratched.				
T. C. Gray, J. Hooper, and C. H. Gale, were the handicappers.				

HONGKONG.

Mr. J. H. Pidgeon has resigned from the Volunteers, and Mr. R. Glendinning has joined.

H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, accompanied by his A.D.C. and the Harbour Master, paid a visit to the Sailors' Home on Dec. 9.

Inspector J. Williamson, of the Hongkong Police, is rather seriously ill, and is now being tended at the Civil Hospital.

Captain G. Elgood has been appointed a member of the Wongneishong and Queen's Recreation Grounds, vice Captain Radford, resigned.

A Port Regatta, on the initiative of Sir Matthew Nathan, may take place in January or February next. His Excellency will present a Cup as one of the prizes.

Dr. Francis Clarke, the Medical Officer of Health, who has been on furlough, returned to the Colony on Dec. 8 by the N.D.L. steamer *Seydlitz*.

A correspondent points out that the Hongkong Civil Service Cricket Club has a Robin and a Raven in its League team, and wonders why Mr. R. E. O. Bird refused to play for this Eleven. He suggests the answer himself, that perhaps he was too "fly." We have no opinion on the matter, and must suggest that this correspondence is now closed.

A handicap billiard tournament, in which there were twenty-four entries, has been concluded at Kowloon Docks. In the semi-final W. Crawford, owing ten points, beat G. Humphreys, owing sixty points, by 200 to 175; E. Herton, owing eighty points, beat J. Parkes, owing a hundred points, by 200 to 195. In the final Herton beat Crawford by 200 to 85. Humphreys beat Parkes for third by 200 to 175.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Howell have sent out invitations for friends to be present at the marriage of their sister to Mr. Arthur William Hill, of the Supreme Court, at St. John's Cathedral on the 21st December. A reception will afterwards be held at No. 6, Morrison Hill Road. The bride, Mrs. Emily Flora von Reiffenstahl, is a daughter of Mr. Jonathan Howell, of Cambridge. Her brother, Mr. Fred Howell, is head bailiff at the Supreme Court.

The Russian Government has sent, through the Italian Foreign Office, the decoration of St. Stanislaus to Chev. Z. Volpicelli, the Italian Consul-General at Hongkong, for services rendered to the sailors, from the two sunken Russian men-o'-war, who were on board the Italian cruiser *Elba*. The *Elba*, it will be remembered, remained for some time at Hongkong during March last.

Mr. Gordon Stafford Northcote, who was married recently to Miss Amy Pay at St. Peter's Church, Budleigh, England, was for many years in the Registrar-General's office in Hongkong, and was for some time Private Secretary to Sir John Pope Hennessey. At other times he filled the positions of Sheriff to the Supreme Court, Coroner, and Assistant Postmaster-General in Hongkong. He is a brother to Mr. Mowbray S. Northcote, of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co.

A merry evening was spent at the Warrant Officers' Club on December 3rd the occasion being the send-off of Gunner Ansall, Vice-President of the Club, who leaves with the *Leviathan* for the Mediterranean Station. Mr. Casey, President of the Club, spoke of the esteem in which their departing friend was held, and had much pleasure in presenting him, on behalf of the Club, with a handsome silver tobacco case, for which Mr. Ansall thanked the comrades he was leaving behind. A suitable programme of music was gone through during the evening.

We have received from the Editors of the *Victoria Recreation Club Magazine*, a record of local sport, the first (December) number. It is a promising little magazine. H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan has invited to write a message; an extract from his reply is as follows—"Sport for sport's sake, and in due subordination to the more earnest duties of life, promotes physical fitness, good fellowship, and strenuousness of purpose." He assumed that the magazine was intended to keep up interest in rowing, swimming and athletics. These had attained a high, and might attain a still higher, standard of excellence at Hongkong.

A meeting of the Hongkong Volunteers was held at Headquarters Dec. 7th, when there were 25 members present. It was agreed that a dance should be held, and that circulars should be sent out to ascertain the general opinion of members of the corps in this respect, and if favourable to arrange a date for holding the same—probably during the latter part of next month. The Commandant stated that he wished to have a similar rifle meeting to the one which took place two years ago. The matter was discussed and held over till a subsequent meeting. The plans for the new headquarters, the Commandant said, were in his office, and he was in hopes the Government would soon make a start on the work.

Sir Matthew Nathan has presented an "Efficiency Cup" to the Hongkong Volunteers. It is to be competed for by the half companies of H.K.V.A. and the H.K.V. Engineer Company, and be held for one year by the unit obtaining the greatest number of marks for efficiency, proficiency, and musketry. The total marks scored by each unit will be multiplied by the number of men in the largest unit, and divided by the actual number in the unit concerned, and one mark will be added for each efficient member of a unit on the muster roll on the date of the annual inspection. Officers and men will be reckoned separately to allow the proportion of proficiency marks to be accurately calculated.

The Hongkong Tramway Electric Company advertise their intention of applying to H.E. the Governor in Council for power to construct and maintain a siding, fifty yards long, between Yee Woo Street and Causeway Bay Road.

P.C. Williams is at Government Civil Hospital, but progressing favourably, suffering from injuries sustained by a collision with an electric tram. He was riding a bicycle at the time, and his wheel must have skidded. The car knocked him down and he was caught by the life guard. He was cut and bruised.

The Masonic Quadrille Club held an unostentatious but enjoyable ball at the Masonic Hall on December 3rd. An excellent supper was provided. Members of the Committee deserving special mention are Bros. Harry Wolfe (chairman), J. J. Sibbit and W. H. E. Smith. The next dance will be held on the 3rd January.

Three Europeans are under arrest. It is alleged that on the morning of the 23rd ult they hired a sampan at Blake Pier, and shortly after leaving threw a Chinese youth overboard because he defended his mother and sister with whom they wanted to take liberties. The boy was picked up and made a report to the police. It was subsequently reported that the boat had been capsized in the harbour and some of its Chinese occupants had made their way to Lantau Island, where they reported to the Cheung Chan Police that the mother and a girl aged 16 years had later been thrown out of the boat by the Europeans. On the following day a search party was organised and the surrounding police stations, together with Macao, Canton, and the coastal port authorities, were communicated with and asked to look out for the Europeans. On Friday it was reported that the men had been seen in the New Territory near Ping Shun, and Sergeant Kerr set out to look for them, with the result that he arrested there men on suspicion. The police have picked up from the water the body of a Chinese woman, recognised by the children as their mother.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

The Caledonian Ball at Shanghai rivalled in magnificence the St. Andrew's function at Hongkong. Our Shanghai contemporary refers to it as "the ball of the year."

The Chuchou correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, after an inland tour, reports that the probabilities of another "boxer" rising are practically nil. The party was everywhere courteously received.

A newspaper in Tientsin publishes a letter containing this harsh comment:—"Probably in no other port is snobbery so highly developed as amongst a certain shoddy clique of young boudiers in Tientsin."

The Weihien district of Shantung is considerably excited over the proclamation issued soliciting recruits for the industries of South Africa. There are daily enquiries, the proposal seeming to attract quite a large number of the natives.

A most ornate Chinese wedding is reported from Luchowfu in Anhui. The bridal chair alone was said to have cost a thousand dollars, and the entire wedding more than fifty thousand taels. The bridegroom was a grand-nephew of the late Earl Li.

A Shanghai property syndicate has offered to "swap" some land with the municipal Council, now for mow, no money. The exchange, making the new Hongkew Recreation Ground more compact, has been agreed to by the Council.

The *Foochow Echo* on Nov. 26th welcomed Mrs. Dew and Miss C. J. Lambert, returning to the port; and announced the immediately approaching marriage of Dr. Davenport of Canton and Miss Ida Chambers, a nurse at the Foochow Native Hospital.

A K'ailfeng letter states that Governor Chen K'uei-lung of Honan has made all arrangements for the establishment of a Military Academy in that city, on the Japanese model, and recently instructed the Provincial Treasurer to preside over the entrance examination of candidates for that institution. Nearly eight hundred young men competed, one of the topics for examination being an essay on the comparative merits of Chinese and foreign army organization. Only sixty youths were accepted out of the large number that competed.

In a report of the rescue of a battery, the *Manchurian Army Messenger*, a bulletin circulated among the Russian troops, says: "This remarkable rescue of the guns as well as of so many human lives of this battery, is to be explained by the fact, that, in the first gun-limber, was carried the *ikon* of the Saviour, handed over to the 43rd Brigade by H.M. the Tsar himself."

The steamer *Inverness*, which left Tacoma on the 15th of October for Yokohama, and which put into Muroran, Hokkaido, for coal, on the 15th ult, has gone ashore on a dangerous sandy bottom. Her captain has applied to the authorities for assistance. The *Inverness* is a British steamer of 3,734 tons gross, and 300 nominal horse-power, belonging to Newcastle, and built by W. Doxford & Son, Ltd., Sunderland, in 1902.

The Shanghai Health Officer's Report for October says: During October the number of deaths among the foreign resident population was four: there were in addition four deaths among non-residents. Among the native population the number of deaths during the month was 600, a figure which indicates the absence of epidemic disease. There has been a remarkable absence of infectious disease throughout the month.

A correspondent writes to the *Rangoon Times* to say that the young Chinese party in Rangoon have circulated a notice among their friends calling a meeting in one of the temples in the Chinese quarter for the purpose of discussing the question of re-dressing their heads without queues. The opinion amongst the Rangoon Chinese, of whom a great many are British subjects, seems to be generally in favour of the removal of the pigtail.

A simple and apparently excellent method of recording a ship's course is that devised by Mr. W. Whiteman. The compass is provided with 360 electric contacts, and is connected by nine wires with a registering apparatus, in which a strip of paper is moved forward one millimetre every second by clockwork. The paper is ruled with 360 lines, one for each degree. The registering pen always indicates the degree toward which the compass needle is pointing and the line drawn shows the extent and time of every change of direction.

The old Russian sloop, the *Zabiaka*, that was practically the Tsar's first war ship on the Asiatic Station, is no more. She received a Japanese shell amidships while lying in Port Arthur harbour, and sank. The story is told how poor Admiral Makaroff used to joke his staff by saying—"Ha, ha, so the Japanese are coming. We must send the *Zabiaka* to drive them off." For the past four years the *Zabiaka* was the despatch vessel of Admiral Alexieff; although she could steam only nine knots.

As an illustration of the incompleteness of the Korean Government records, the following story, given in the *Korea Daily News*, is rather interesting. For some time past the Home Office has been extremely annoyed at receiving no reply to their despatches to Mr. Kim Ro-kiu, recently appointed, according to the *Official Gazette*, to the governorship of North Hamkyeng province. Eventually, a brilliant idea occurred to a member of the department, and the following message was despatched to the Governor of South Hamkyeng province: "Has Kim Ro-kiu arrived at the northern province?" The reply was terse, but to the point: "Kim Ro-kiu has been dead for a long time."

Peking is probably one of the hardest diplomatic centres on the diplomatic list; but there is always the danger that the well-known Chinese trick of procrastination is allowed too much elbow room. All the diplomats appear to fall too readily into the habit of playing patience. There was once a Minister in Peking who played table thumping instead, and his name is still mentioned with some semblance of respect in Chinese circles. There were many who upheld the Russian refusal at Port Arthur a few weeks ago to allow the Japanese time to bury their dead; maintaining that any such concession under the circumstances would have been poor strategy by affording the Japanese an opportunity to make new plans. On the same principle we fear, says the *Peking Times*, the diplomatic body are frequently at fault in allowing the Chinese time, not only to "bury their dead," but engulf the living too.

A Wuchang despatch states that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is so very much taken up with Pinghsiang, in Kiangsi province, where are Sheng Kung-pao's coal mines and a short railway to the banks of the Yangtze, as an ideal spot for an arsenal, that, in the event of Tiah Liang, the Special Commissioner from Peking, reporting that it is unfit to replace the Kiangnan Arsenal in Shanghai, the Viceroy will himself construct a small arms and ammunition factory and a field-gun foundry there with funds from the treasury of the Hukuang provinces.

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Mr. Frederick Mayers, of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs Service, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority that he may accept and wear the Insignia of the First Class of the Third Division of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon, conferred upon him by his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China. The King has also been pleased to give authority to Mr. Hermann Dawson Gröne, of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs Service, to accept and wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the same order.

A Peking despatch reports that the Grand Council received on November 24th a long telegram from Lu Yuan-ting, Governor of Hunan, to the effect that he has discovered a conspiracy amongst the students of the newly-established Provincial College of Hunan, at Changsha, whose object is to overturn the Manchu dynasty, and that the students arrested have also confessed the names of certain Chinese students now studying in Japan, as fellow-conspirators. In reply to the Governor of Hunan's telegram, the Empress Dowager issued a Rescript commanding the summary execution of two of the chief conspirators and releasing the others who had been arrested.

A Chinese ex-policeman at Shanghai made a practice of going to a native woman who sold lottery tickets, and telling her to take out tickets in his name. If the ticket happened to draw a prize, the defendant claimed the prize money and paid her for the cost of the ticket, but if his ticket lost then he paid the complainant nothing. He imposed upon the woman in this way by threatening to charge her with some offence should she not comply with his demands. The defendant had been in the Police Force eight years and had a very bad record. He was laid by the heels on Nov. 30th, and got 300 blows and three months' imprisonment.

The Shanghai *Sinwenpao* says:—We have already reported that the Russian Consul-General here asked Taotao Yuan to allow Rear-Admiral Reitzenstein (who came here on board the *Askold*) to go home to get proper medical attendance. The other day Taotai Yuan wrote the Russian Consul-General here to the effect that he has been instructed by the Peking Government by wire saying that the admiral cannot be allowed to go home as at the banquet given by the Italian Consul-General in Shanghai in honour of the birthday of the Queen Dowager of Italy Rear-Admiral Reitzenstein was seen by Mr. Odagiri, the Japanese Consul-General to be in robust health and without any sign of sickness.

Before the German Vice-Consul at Shanghai, on November 30, Friedrich Wesemeyer was charged with obtaining goods from Messrs. Liebe, Wulff & Co. by false pretences. It came out in course of the hearing that prisoner, who had lately arrived from Hongkong, had been staying at the Sailors' Home, Broadway, at the expense of his Consulate. By representing himself to be chosen by Mr. Spitzel to command a blockade-runner, he persuaded Mrs. Masche, who keeps a restaurant on Broadway, to give him refreshment on credit and to accompany him to Messrs. Liebe, Wulff & Co.'s store. There he repeated his story and placed an order for clothing to the value of \$400, the goods to be delivered against a cash order on Messrs. Fuhrmeister, Klose and Co. He took away goods to the value of \$20, and the remainder were to follow, but in consequence of inquiries made by Mr. Wulff they were not delivered; instead a report was lodged at the Consulate. Prisoner was found guilty, and a previous conviction having been recorded at Hongkong, he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

TRADE ITEMS.

Mr. Sassoon J. David, senior partner in the firm of Sassoon J. David & Co., of Bombay, and of S. J. David & Co., of China and Japan, has been appointed Sheriff of Bombay for the ensuing year.

Cav. R. Pescio is appointed by the Italian Government as its Commercial Delegate in Hongkong, and is prepared to answer inquiries with regard to Italian produce. His address is c/o Messrs Gregor & Co.

The two tugboats *Hawk* and *Petrel*, which were recently constructed by Messrs W. S. Bailey & Co. for Messrs J. G. White & Co., contractors to the Philippine Government, having undergone a successful trial trip under the inspection of the owners' representatives left yesterday (Monday) for Manila, each vessel being under her own steam.

Some South China merchants have obtained permission to work the coal mines at Ichow in the Western Hills, where the coal is said to be just as good as the Tongshan coal. The head office will be at Paotingfu, and the working capital is Tls. 100,000.

The average amount of Bank-notes in circulation and of specie in reserve at Hongkong during November was as follows:—

Banks.	Average.	Reserve.
Chartered Bank...	\$ 3,673,435	\$2,300,000
H. K. & S. Bank...	12,397,557	7,000,000
National Bank ...	354,816	150,000

Total ... \$16,425,808 \$9,450,000

One of the few remaining private gardens in the Settlement of Shanghai will probably soon disappear, it being reported that the Kungping property at the corner of the Nanking and Szechuen Roads, opposite the rising store of Hall & Holtz, Ltd., has been bought by Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co., the well-known general storekeepers of Rangoon, who propose to open a store there. The price reported by the *N.C. Daily News* is Tls. 400,000.

A Chengtu despatch states that in response to instructions from Viceroy Hsi Liang, the Director of the Szechuan Railway Bureau, a Taotai named Chao invited a large and influential body of gentry, notables, and wealthy merchants of Chengti to a meeting to consider ways and means for the raising of funds to construct a railway in Szechuan province, with native money alone, and avoid the necessity of making a foreign loan. No fewer than seven hundred gentlemen attended the meeting, and the general consensus of opinion was that the required funds could easily be raised by landholders apportioning a certain percentage of the rentals each year for a stated period.—*N.C. Daily News*.

The French Minister has informed the Waiwupu that Viceroy Hsi Liang promised the French Consul at Chengtu that the concession of the railway between Szechuan and Hankow would be given to a French concern, but now the concession is reported to be given to some other foreign concern, which is not in accordance with the promise made to the French Consul at Chengtu by the Viceroy. However, the Waiwupu has answered the French Minister to the effect that the concession has never been given to any foreign concern, and that there is no project of the line of railway mentioned, and that it is necessary to be understood clearly that there has been no concession of the railway given to any party.—*Sinwenpao*.

In the course of his report on the trade and commerce of the Consular District of Chieng-mai, Siam, for the last year, Consul C. E. W. Stringer calls attention to the decrease in the quantity of teak exported, and says it may be attributed to stricter conservancy of the forests by the Siamese Forest Department and the persistent stealing of elephants employed in working teak. Such thefts appear to be rather increasing than otherwise, and from one of the forests in the neighbourhood of Raheng so many elephants have been stolen that one British firm working it says that it will be compelled to give up operations there if these thefts continue. The value of a timber-working elephant is roughly £200. The stolen elephants, it appears, are in some cases taken over the frontier into Burma or the Shan States, and in others concealed in or near the jungle villages in Siamese territory near the frontier.—*Siam Observer*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. of Shanghai, in their Circular, dated 28th November, state:—Black Teas.—Settlements since the 14th instant:—2,247 half-chests. Total settlements to date 50,831 half-chests against 61,912 half-chests last year. Green Teas.—Pingsneys.—A good business has been done during the interval at Tls. 24/29. Country Teas.—The demand for medium quality Teas still continues, and fair sales have been made at Tls. 19/23. Settlements since 14th November:—15,718 half-chests. Total settlements since opening of market to date:—838,659 half-chests; Stock 42,223 half-chests. Last year's figures were:—426,001 half-chests; Stock 10,199 half-chests. Settlements of Hyson and Young Hyson since opening of market to date:—Arrivals 139,820, settlements 136,769 half-chests, stock 3,051 half-chests.

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to Great Britain has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Dust, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904...	25,473,878	574,927	2,330,136
" 1903...	7,651,013	—	3,949,272
" 1902...	5,155,563	—	3,558,998

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to the United States and Canada has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904...	6,799,781	15,179,402
" 1903...	6,236,040	18,534,115
" 1902...	10,082,758	16,508,631

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to other European ports:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904...	20,389,027	4,422,532	1,580,802
" 1903...	2,683,700	—	1,623,669
" 1902...	1,827,019	—	1,100,280

From commencement of Season the export of Black Tea direct to Russia has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904...	854,867	1,049,467
" 1903...	12,388,860	—
" 1902...	18,862,521	—

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to Bombay and other ports has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904...	77,067	843,067	—
" 1903...	162,936	1,186,601	—
" 1902...	67,766	938,695	—

From commencement of Season the export of Green Tea to Batoum and Novorossisk, &c., has been:—

	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904...	7,191,198
" 1903...	12,259,866
" 1902...	9,053,974

The Export of Tea to Russian Manchuria via Port Arthur, Newchwang and Tientsin has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.	Dust, lbs.
1904...	3,323,469	27,525,212	176,134	224,034
1903...	32,514,500	33,986,867	2,031,188	136,666
1902...	37,925,970	5,493,670	2,405,387	954,201

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son's Silk Circular, dated Shanghai 26th November, states:—The home markets are firm. Gold Killing is quoted in London at 12/14 and in Lyons at Fcs. 34. Raw silk.—Business has been on a fair scale during the interval in spite of high Exchange, and an advance in Tael rates. Coarse silks also continue in fair demand. Yellow Silk.—We only hear of a few transactions. Hand Filatures. A considerable business has been done in Medium and Low Grade Filatures both for the Continent and America; the latter market also taking 400 B Crac. Chops, and about 150 B. New Style Filatures. Steam Filatures.—Sales are confined to about 680 B mostly in coarse sizes for America. Waste Silk.—The market keeps very quiet, and we have not heard of any business.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 9th Dec.—The prices are the same as when last reported

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.55 to \$8.65 pcls.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.75 to 7.85 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.25 to 6.30 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.95 to 6.10 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.45 to 8.50 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	4.90 to 5.00 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.80 to 12.90 "
Shekloong "	10.85 to 11.00 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 9th Dec.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.45 to \$2.50
" Round, good quality	4.05 to 4.10
" Long... ..	4.30 to 4.35
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.60 to 2.65
" Garden, " No. 1	2.85 to 2.95
" White,	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo	4.40 to 4.45

OPIUM.

Quotations are:— Allow'ce net.		10th December.	
Malwa New	\$1100	to \$1130	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1170	to \$1200	do.
Malwa Older	\$1250	to \$1270	do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1300	to \$1330	do.
Persian fine quality	\$880	to —	do.
Persian extra fine	\$90	to —	do.
Patna New	\$1125	to —	per chest.
Benares New	\$1100	to —	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai, 1st December, states:—The actual market here is in a dormant state, though the dealers are apparently finding little difficulty so far in clearing forward purchases, especially for the Northern market. At the moment there is, perhaps, to some extent a slight lull, though undoubtedly goods are badly wanted in Tientsin and further quantities have been turned over by second-hand holders. Exchange with that Port is, however, very unfavourable at present owing to the scarcity of Sycee there. The last steamers will be leaving here in a few days time, and considerable disappointment is being felt at the continued non-arrival of two or three large cargoes of American goods. The s.s. *Algoa*, which by the way did not leave San Francisco until the 30th October, touched at Yokohama two days ago and should be here about the 10th inst. The s.s. *Telemachus* from Tacoma has just arrived and is discharging at Woosung. The goods carried by these boats are all wanted for either Tientsin or Newchwang and will have to go up via Chinwantao. It seems to be still a mystery as to what is so seriously affecting the Hankow market, but the dealers here have now made up their minds that no improvement will take place until the New Year, when the natives start with a "clean slate." Clearances thence are poor and no fresh purchases are being made. Shirtings and Sheetings.—As the time is drawing near for returning the half-yearly Stocks on hand it has been thought that an endeavour should be made, once for all, to discriminate between these two classes of goods and so add to the value of the statistics kept. It has been suggested that really the only practical and most useful way will be to get the Customs Authorities to insist on all Grey goods measuring 36 inch x 40 yards and packed 20 pieces in a bale being called Sheetings, and all that are packed more than 20 pieces being called Shirtings. If all the Manchester houses will make this distinction in their invoices it will greatly facilitate matters, and assist in keeping separate and distinct two very important factors in this trade that serve equally separate and distinct markets. Piece Goods.—The available stock in first hands is practically exhausted, consequently business reported is of little or no interest. Manufacturers, particularly in Lancashire, are so well engaged ahead it is almost impossible to buy anything for delivery within reasonable time, some cloths being quoted for as late as September next, or for arrival twelve months hence, and this even for Grey goods! Buying for other markets is now going on in Manchester, and these have had to follow the lead set by operators here. It is unlikely, however, that their requirements have been so fully covered on the higher basis for Cotton as is the case with buyers here, and will undoubtedly be able to benefit by the decline which has now taken place. Mid American according to last quotations being down to 5.07d. Egyptian has also suffered a reaction to 8½d. The decline in Cotton does not affect the American market adversely, prices being very firm with steady business doing for China in all weights of Sheetings, and some of heavier Drills, at gradually strengthening prices. Delivery is not so distant as that required in Manchester, few purchases made being later than May shipment. There is a great demand for Japanese Yarn and prices for the favorite spinings are ruling ten taels over Indian! The supply available for Export we understand has been contracted for up to the end of June. Indian Yarns are steady at the moment, though we hear bad news of the Szechuen market has been received.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale	
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20,	...	\$ 90.00 to	\$128.00
English—Nos. 18 to 24,	...	114.00 to	120.00
" 22 to 24,	...	120.00 to	128.00
" 28 to 32,	...	136.00 to	142.00
" 38 to 42,	...	165.00 to	170.00

Reported sales 10,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS— per piece.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
7 lbs.	2.35 to 2.50
8.4 lbs.	3.20 to 4.10
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.10
58 to 60 "	3.20 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50
Fine	6.20 to 8.25
Book-folds	5.50 to 8.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.10
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.25 to 2.50
7lbs. (32 ")	2.75 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.75
7lbs. (32 "),	3.00 to 3.25
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.20 to 4.00
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½	5.25 to 8.00
to 14 lbs.)	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.)	1.85 to 4.25
per yard	
Brocades—Dyed	0.13½ to 0.15
DAMASKS,	...
Chintzes—Assorted	0.09 to 0.18
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.55
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.26
per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.60 to 1.00

WOOLLENS— per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.70 to 2.00
German	0.60 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.00 to 3.50
per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.80 to 9.25
Assorted	7.95 to 9.40
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 31.00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, November 30th, 1904.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 84.00
Do. Seconds	80.00
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	19.50
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	58.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	9.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	10.00
Jute	4.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	10.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.65
Animal Tallow	9.20
Gallnuts, Usual shape	17.50
Do. Plum do.	19.00
Tobacco, Tingchow (nominal)	—
Do. Woukong (")	—
Black Bristles	120.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	21.50
" " Wild Duck	24.90
Turneric	8.00
Sesamum Seed	4.10
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed-Oil	7.90
Wood Oil	7.30
Tea Oil	9.00

Per steamer *Jason*, for Amsterdam, London and Antwerp, sailed on 22nd Nov. For Trieste:—150 cases cassia. For Constantinople:—17 cases books. For Odessa:—67 bales galangal. For London:—142 packages/tea, 23 cases chinaware, &c., 18 cases cigars, hats, &c., 1,188 bales hemp, 20 cases bristles, 11 cases sundries, 375 cases preserves, 20 bales canes. For London or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London or Glasgow:—100 cases preserves, 150 cases preserves. For London or Rotterdam:—20 cases ginger, 25 cases ginger. For London or Hamburg:—20 cases essential oil. For Glasgow:—14 packages sundries. For Copenhagen:—200 cases cassia, 134 bales feathers. For London or Continent:—13 bales canes, 100 cases cassia, 13 cases sauce, 63 cases canes 399 rolls matting, 300 cases cassia, 100 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—50 rolls matting, 22 cases chinaware. For Rotterdam or Amsterdam:—260 bales bamboo.

Per steamer *Agamenon*, for Genoa, Marseilles and Liverpool, sailed on 23rd November. For Marseilles:—384 bales waste silk, 5 cases hats, 65 packages human hair, 6 cases feathers. For Marseilles or Havre:—20 cases essential oil. For Havre:—50 cases staraniseed, 50 bales teamats &c., 11 packages human hair. For Liverpool:—100 bales mats, 50 bales hemp.

Per P. & O. steamer *Simla*, sailed on 3rd Dec. For London:—45 bales raw silk, 208 bales waste silk, 230 rolls mats and matting, 1 case cigars, 5 cases private effects, 20 cases bristles, 2 cases bird feathers, 16 packages tea and lychees, 5 cases silks, 15 packages tea. For Milan:—90 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—308 bales raw silk, 134 bales pierced cocoons, 320 packages tea, 3 cases pongees, 10 cases bristles, 4 cases human hair, 1 case curios, 10 cases ylang ylang oil. For Lyons:—426 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—19 cases silks.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on 9th Dec. For Amsterdam:—14 cases woodenware. For Glasgow:—28 cases chinaware. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—378 bales hemp, 1 case pictures, &c., 1,252 rolls mats and matting, 2 cases cigars, 3 cases curios, 16 cases personal effects, 25 cases soy (or Rotterdam), 23 bales waste silk (or Goole), 270 packages tea, 80 cases chinaware, 2 cases woodenware, 53 bales canes, 100 bales waste silk (or Manchester), 3 packages ginger, 2 cases china ink. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk.

SHALE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th December, 1904.—Our market has ruled somewhat erratic during the past week: China Sugars and Docks which have been freely offering, to some extent for settlement account, shew a decline on last week's rates, but on the other hand, Banks and Unions, which are still wanted for investment account, have further improved their position. Indos have ruled steady throughout the period under review.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have sold at \$710 and \$715, and close in further request at the higher rate. London has advanced to £7 5s. 0d. Nationals are unchanged with sellers at \$39.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have advanced to \$700 with sales and further buyers. China Traders are easier with sales at \$58½ ex the dividend of \$4½ for the year ended 30th April, 1904, paid on the 7th inst. North Chinas have been booked at Tls. 96 and are now in request at Tls. 98. Shanghai quotes sellers at Tls. 100. Yangtszes and Cantons are without change.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong continue in request at \$335. Chinas have again been booked at \$90, and more shares are wanted.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are easier with sales at \$29 and probable further sellers at the rate. Indo-Chinas have ruled steady with sales at \$128 and \$129 cash and for the settlement, closing firm with cash buyers at \$128½. Douglasses have been booked at \$34. China and Manilas and Star Ferries are without change. Shell Transports can be procured at 25/6.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have weakened and sales down to \$232 are reported, market closing with sellers at \$233. Luzons have experienced a sharp rise, and after sales at \$17, \$19, \$20 and \$21 are in further demand at the latter rate.

MINING.—Raub, after sales at \$5, have weakened to \$4½ sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have eased off to \$215 at which rate however more shares are wanted and for a small lot probably \$26 could be obtained. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are procurable at \$114½, and New Amoy Docks at \$27. Farnhams are wanted in the north at Tls. 174.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue on offer at \$148. Kowloon Lands have been booked at \$38½. West Points are procurable at \$60, and Humphreys' Estates at \$12½ and \$5 for the old and new issues respectively. Hongkong Hotels are firmer with buyers at \$141. Shanghai Lands unchanged at Tls. 117.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong have improved to \$12½ buyers. The Northern quotations are without change.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have sold, and are in further request at \$9½. Green Island Cements are easier with sellers at \$31. Dairy Farms are still in request at \$30. Ropes have advanced to \$150 buyers. Morning Posts after sales at \$2 are enquired for at \$21½. Watsons (old) have been booked at \$13 and the new at \$12½. Watkins have sold and have further sellers at \$9½. Powells are wanted at \$11.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$71, buyers L'don, £70. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$39, sellers
B. Shares	28	\$39, sellers
Foun. Shares	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$700, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$58½, ex div. sales
North China	25	Tls. 98, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$150
Canton	\$50	\$250
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$128½, buyers
China and Manila	\$50	\$24
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, sales
Star Ferry	\$10	\$40, sellers
	\$5	\$30, sellers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	21	28/-, sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	23. 10/-
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$233, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub	18/10d.	\$4½, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$215, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$114½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$61	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 174
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$148, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38, sales
West Point Building	\$50	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$141, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12½, sales
	\$2½	\$5, sellers
Shanghai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 20
Lao Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$200	\$10½, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5½
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$13, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$30, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$45, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$31, sellers
	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$9, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$160, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$300
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$255
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$150, buyers
Hk. Steam Water	\$10	(\$20, sellers \$20, sellers
Boat Co., Ltd.		
Phippine Tobacco	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Trust Co., Ltd.		
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and	\$50	\$50
Cleaning Co., Ltd.		
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$21½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.75, sellers
China Light & Power	\$10	\$10, sales
Co., Ltd.		
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7
	\$3	\$4, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½, sales & sellers
Do.	\$10	\$180
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sellers
	\$10	\$12½, sales & sellers
William Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$11, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 1st December, 1904, states:—Considerable business has been done since our last in Indo-Chinas and S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. shares, the latter closing at a distinctly lower level of rates. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/8. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. These are in demand at \$710, and a small lot was sent to Hongkong at the equivalent of \$687½ ex 73. There are no shares offering at these rates. The London quotation is £70. Marine and Fire Insurance.—There is nothing reported under this heading. Shipping.—Considerable business has been done in Indo-Chinas

at varying rates. The market commenced firm at Tls. 91½, 92½ for December, and 94 March. The Settlement, however, seems to have affected this stock to some extent, and cash shares were let go at Tls. 90 and 89, bringing out sellers at 90 for December. A reaction took place two days ago, when large orders from the South cleared the market of the cheaper shares, leaving our closing quotation at Tls. 91 December, and 93 March. There is no news of any interim dividend, which we do not expect to be declared. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Our market has gradually declined, and this in spite of a telegram received by the Head Office to the effect that negotiations pending for the sale of the property were progressing satisfactorily. A little uneasiness is felt in some quarters over the following extract from the telegram. "More time is required to enable the promoters to get the necessary capital fully subscribed." The market rates have declined from Tls. 181 December to 177, at which rate there are sellers at the close. Shares have been dealt in for January at Tls. 181, 180, 179, 178, and for March 183, 182½. The market, however, is very weak all round at these rates. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—A considerable number of shares have changed hands at Tls. 164 and 164 cum new issue for December delivery. Transactions are reported for March at Tls. 142½ for the old, and 140 for new shares, also Tls. 163 c.n.i. Sugars.—China Sugars are quoted at \$236 buyers in Hongkong. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds.—Cash shares have been dealt in at \$23. Lands.—A small lot of Lands were sold at Tls. 115, but the market closes with buyers at Tls. 117, and sellers at Tls. 118. Shanghai Ice Co. A sale is reported at Tls. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons. These are reported at Tls. 25 cash. Shanghai Gas Shares are in demand at Tls. 104½ with no sellers 17½, and there are buyers at this figure. China Flours.—No business reported this week, but there are buyers at Tls. 72½. Shanghai Pulps have changed hands at Tls. 170 for January. Langkats. The cash rate remained steady at Tls. 295 with sales at Tls. 310 for February, and March at Tls. 312½ and 310 and 315 April. There is nothing fresh to report. Stores and Hotels.—Astor House shares have been dealt in at \$27. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Horse Bazaars are reported at Tls. 93 and have sellers at this price. Operations have been made in Telephones at Tls. 68 cash, and Tls. 70 January delivery. Loans.—Municipal Debentures, 5 per cent, at Tls. 91.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 12th December.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	241
Credits 4 months' sight	244½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	195½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	142½
Bank, on demand	142½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	142½
Bank, on demand	142½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	94
ON MANILA.—On demand	92½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	2½ p.c. p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	115½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.c. p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c. p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.40
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$54.70
SILVER, per oz.	27½

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports; (via Shanghai):—48/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre; (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (Overland):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

November—

ARRIVALS.

- 1, Goldmouth, British str., from Batoum.
- 1, Simla, British str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Signal, German str., from Bangkok.
- 1, Willebad, German str., from Bremen.
- 2, Belgian King, British str., from Moji.
- 2, Elser, German str., from Canton.
- 2, Esang, British str., from Canton.
- 2, Humber, British str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Kansu, British str., from Tientsin.
- 2, Kwangtuh, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 2, Mathilde, German str., from Tourane.
- 2, Segovia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 2, S. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Philadelphia.
- 2, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 3, Bengal, British str., from Bombay.
- 3, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Chingta, British str., from Australia.
- 3, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Elg, Norwegian str., from Ningpo.
- 3, Fooshing, British str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Hinsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 3, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
- 3, Kintuck, British str., from London.
- 3, Shahzada, British str., from Newchwang.
- 3, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
- 3, Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.
- 4, Aragonia, German str., from Portland.
- 4, Baltimore, U.S. cruiser, from Manila.
- 4, Banca, British str., from Moji.
- 4, C. Ferd. Lueisz, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
- 4, Dundas, British str., from Batoum.
- 4, Ghazee, British str., from London.
- 4, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.
- 4, Helena, U.S. gunboat, from Mirs Bay.
- 4, Liguria, Italian cruiser, from Shanghai.
- 4, Opland, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
- 4, Tungsing, British str., from Wuhu.
- 5, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 5, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 5, Kiukiang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 5, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Stanley Dollar, Brit. str., from S. F.isco.
- 5, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 6, Avoca, British transport, from Taku.
- 6, Breiz Izal, French str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Clara Jebson, German str., from Moji.
- 6, Halaban, Dutch str., from Foochow.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Kweiyang, British str., from Newchwang.
- 6, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Moyune, British str., from Liverpool.
- 6, Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.
- 6, Yunnan, British str., from Taku.
- 7, Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
- 7, Craig-arn, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 7, Dett, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 7, Juno, American str., from Manila.
- 7, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Lennox, British str., from Moji.
- 7, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 7, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
- 7, Saint Hugo, British str., from Amoy.
- 7, Tamsui, British str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Telemachus, British str., from America.
- 8, Benmohr, British str., from Moji.
- 8, Cyrus, British str., from Moji.
- 8, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
- 8, M. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Nanchang, British str., from Taku.
- 8, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Seydlitz, French str., from Bremen.
- 8, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Yatsing, British str., from Hongay.
- 9, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 9, Magallanes, American str., from Manila.
- 9, Mathilde, German str., from Swatow.
- 9, Palawan, British str., from London.
- 9, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Y'hama.
- 9, Pundua, British str., from Singapore.
- 9, Rosario, British sloop, from Bombay Reef.
- 9, Salsdon, British str., from Foochow.
- 9, Tean, British str., from Manila.
- 9, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Waishing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 10, Anhui, British str., from Taku.
- 10, Anchenarden, British str., from K'otsu.
- 10, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.
- 10, Eigre, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.

- 10, Glory, British battleship, from practice.
- 10, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 10, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Kaifong, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Promise, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Providence, Norwegian str., from Auping.

DEPARTURES.

- 2, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
- 2, Elisa, Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
- 2, Germania, German str., for Bangkok.
- 2, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 2, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 2, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
- 2, Pollux, Norwegian str., for Samarang.
- 2, Rosario, British sloop, for Singapore.
- 2, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
- 2, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Macassar.
- 3, Bengal, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, China, American str., for San Francisco.
- 3, Decima, German str., for Kobe.
- 3, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
- 3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Mercedes, British str., for New Zealand.
- 3, Onsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 3, Petchaburi, German str., for Amoy.
- 3, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 3, Simla, British str., for Europe.
- 3, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 3, Waibora, British str., for Amoy.
- 3, Willehad, German str., for Nagasaki.
- 4, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
- 4, Breiz Huel, French str., for Port Pirie.
- 4, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 4, Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
- 4, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Fritbjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
- 4, Hopsang, British str., for Samarang.
- 4, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
- 4, Segovia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 5, Banca, British str., for London.
- 5, Dundas, British str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
- 5, Leviathan, British str., for S'pore & Home.
- 6, Breiz Huel, French str., for Kobe.
- 6, Carl Diederichsen, German str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Else, German str., for Hoibow.
- 6, Hailong, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 6, Kintook, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
- 6, Kobsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
- 6, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Mauritius.
- 6, Riverdale, British str., for Newcastle.
- 6, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 6, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
- 6, Tungshing, British str., for Canton.
- 7, Andree Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Balfimore, U.S. cruiser, for Chefoo.
- 7, Chingta, British str., for Kobe.
- 7, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 7, Kweilin, British str., for Ningpo.
- 7, Mathilde, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
- 7, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Tjipanang, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
- 7, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
- 7, Yunnan, British str., for Canton.
- 8, Amara, British str., for Hongay.
- 8, Avoca, British transport, for Singapore.
- 8, C. Ferd. Laeisz, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Dott, Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 8, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 8, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
- 8, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
- 8, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Moyune, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Ceylon, British str., for London.
- 9, Elg, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 9, Germania, German str., for Yap.
- 9, Ghasee, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
- 9, Nanchang, British str., for Canton.
- 9, Ormley, British str., for Calcutta.
- 9, Saint Hugo, British str., for Singapore.
- 9, Seydlitz, German str., for Shanghai, &c.
- 9, Telemachus, British str., for London.
- 9, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
- 9, Yaensang, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Kansu, British str., for Kobe.
- 10, Mathilde, British str., for Tourane.
- 10, Seladon, British str., for Singapore.
- 10, Shahzada, British str., for Wuhu.
- 10, Suissang, British str., for Calcutta.

- 10, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 10, Zafro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Simla*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. Cambridge and E. Lockhaus, Dr. Reifsynden, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Palier and 2 children, Messrs. Dastur and P. Peronzier, Capt. and Mrs. Tupper, Messrs. A. B. Dewey, C. Dewey, H. Butterworth, Mrs. and Miss Ranger and child, Messrs. Harper, J. Richards, Bastien; and C. Wittman; for Penang, Mr. J. C. Jones, for Port Said, Mrs. H. D. Fedoroff and 3 children; for Colombo, Miss R. Lobenstein; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Grand and Mr. J. Maroel; for London via Bombay, Mr. C. H. Allen; for London, Mrs. G. E. Burgoyne and child and Mr. C. Caines; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Mrs. Fontaine and Mr. T. Gorton; for Brindisi, Mr. J. Inglis; for London, Mr. J. Wolstencroft; from Yokohama, for Port Said, Mr. Fontaine.

Per *Bengal*, from Bombay, for Hongkong, Miss Murdock, Mr. Abrahams; from London, Master and Mrs. Anderson, Lady and Miss Noel, Mr. Leask; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, Major Radcliffe, Messrs. E. Mayor and K. Seymour; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. As down and child, Misses Shortcliff (2), Messrs. S. Eng Lock, Y. Swee Key and E. Whykoff; from London, Mrs. Rymer; for Shanghai, Miss Grey, Messrs. J. Douglas, H. Barnett and Ridgway; from Marseilles, Mrs. Coutts; from Brindisi, Mr. Ord; from Singapore, Messrs. C. L. Johnson, R. Hunter and A. H. Turner and native servant; from London, for Yokohama, Mr. Arnould; from Gibraltar, Misses Harrison (2) from Marseilles, Mrs. Legner.

Per *Preussen*, from Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. A. P. Fachiri, Mrs. A. M. Gade, Mr. Paul Barbillon, Mrs. F. H. Francis, Mrs. Thomas Kinney, and Mr. C. Carbollo; from Kobe, H.R.H. Prince Asiz Hassan, Messrs. W. H. Sheldermine and S. M. Sheldermine, Mrs. Sheldermine, Miss L. E. Sheldermine, Mrs. H. H. Pile, Miss S. H. Lafonscade, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Rhodes, and Mr. K. Okuno; from Nagasaki, Messrs. R. Nakagawa and F. Suda, Mrs. M. Hechter, Messrs. Nakamura and Yilao and 2 children; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith, Mr. Ruffo, Mrs. Nesbitt, Messrs. Panda and W. E. Southcott, Misses Shillington and Reid, Messrs. A. Anin, Fachin, H. C. Edman, H. H. Borden, Mrs. H. Mandl, Mr. Varawa, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, Messrs. Paul Reimers and F. Moeller, Miss Moeller, Revs. E. H. Bonfield and Alao, Miss Duffy, Messrs. E. Brindle, Petersen, and Mathiesen.

Per *Seydlitz*, from Bremen, &c., Mr. E. W. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Aveling, Messrs. Aveling (3), A. Alma W. Allensen, W. H. R. Allen, Lady Charles Bressford, Mr. Otto Baum, Mr. and Mrs. A. Berrington, Miss M. A. Berrington, Miss Bertha Bergfeld, Miss E. B. Boulton, Mr. P. Bouman, Miss A. Bouman, Mrs. Bondfield, Mr. W. S. Brown, Revs. G. A. Bridge and J. Badcock, Misses Bryant and Bauwer, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. de Bode, Mrs. Botham and children, Rev. W. C. Bentley and family, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. P. H. Carpendale and child, Misses H. Louise Conder and Helen A. Conder, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Crowe and child, Mrs. Robt. Crawshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Rst. A. Craig, Miss Craig, Mr. Craig, jr., Mr. B. F. Cambier, Dr. Francis Clarke, Miss Vera C. Collum, Messrs. M. Chits and W. E. Coletti, Mrs. Bertha Pauline Auge, Ciossek and children, Mr. and Mrs. Chausse, Mr. and Mrs. Wilh. Drossemeyer, Mrs. M. J. Drummond, Miss A. Davies, Messrs. G. Dauter and Dalletsen, Miss Deed, Messrs. Louis W. Dupre, Venantius Dufner, Fidelis Dietsche, Miss Susanne Deissler, Baron Waitz von Eschen, Mr. and Mrs. Fiegel, jr., Mr. and Mrs. Fair, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stanley Gibbons, Mrs. Garden, Lieut. Wm. Grut, von H. Gidley, Mrs. Marie Gorenken, Mrs. Philippina Gartner and child, Messrs. Ottomar Gesang, Mr. Harlem, Emil C. Hueter, A. von Huhn, Mr. and Mrs. F. Courtenay Heffer, Mr. Victor Hermann, Mrs. J. Hellendoorn, Mrs. A. K. Henderson, Miss Isabel K. Henderson, Mr. Fred. Hall, Miss Hill, Messrs. Anton Haidegger, Lorenz Jeschke, Miss O. Julius, Messrs. H. E. Jones, Keith G. Jule, Mrs. Ludw. Kiene, Mrs. C. A. Koning, Miss Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser, Miss Valerie Kuhl, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Krebs, Messrs. Alfred Krebs and Alice Krebs, Mr. K.

Koster, Mrs. K. Kappelle-Engel, Mr. W. Krasemann, Richard von Lookstedt, W. Ludicke, Gustav Lienung, Callistus Lopinot, Carl Muller, Dr. Massanitz Mari, Misses A. M. Mannering and H. D. Mannering, Consul Michaelson, Miss Catherine McGill, Messrs. H. O. Maynard, W. L. Mitchell, Miss Milligan, Messrs. Melchior Majersky, Colonatus Mitzner, Mrs. F. Muller and children, Mr. J. D. Noble, Rev. and Mrs. G. C. Niven and child, Miss C. A. Olding, Mr. O. C. Oliff, Mr. and Mrs. von Pustan and children, Miss H. Palmann, Mr. Reichardt, Baron F. von der Ropp, Mr. and Mrs. Roeder, Mr. M. Rosenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie and child, Messrs. Seubert, Max Schmidt, Richard Schmidt, Miss C. M. Sullivan, Mr. J. C. Soeters, Misses M. D. Shrubsole, M. Snowden, A. Saunders, Mrs. Stopani and children, Messrs. S. M. Storm, Heinrich Schnabel, Schuler and Andr. W. Sielfeld, Mrs. W. Schelzky, Mr. Hans Tiefenbacher, Sub-Lieut. and Mrs. Walter Tiliug and children, Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Temme, Mr. Willy Triton, Mrs. Antonia Varawa, Miss Elisabeth Varawa, Mr. Emil Weckel and family, Mrs. Winslow, Major and Mrs. Waring, Misses Dorothy Waring and Allbill Waring, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Winner and daughter, Messrs. August Winkler, J. H. W. de Warnd, Nathan Wagner-Reizers, Mrs. Wickwar, Miss Juliet E. Walker, Messrs. Colomann Wiegand, Walter C. Zwieg, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Zeveryn.

DEPARTED.

Per *Simla*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mrs. Fielding and family, Mr. G. L. Duncan; for Colombo, Count Mortagne; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hamilton; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Howland, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Stark, Mrs. Speff Von Pilsach, Mr. Frank Boles, Misses Alice, Mary, and Martha L. Brown, Misses Elizabeth and Grace Brown, Mrs. Wessel, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Clark, Mrs. J. K. Speed, Miss M. Shimp, Messrs. Sydney Lenz and Harry Lenz; for Marseilles, Mrs. F. L. Guild, Mr. A. E. Kaesser, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Bond; for London, Messrs. W. H. Cambridge, Wm. B. Jones, S. W. Merchant, and Comdr. R. Nugent, R.N.; from Shanghai, for Penang, Mr. J. C. Jones; for Colombo, Miss Rose Lobinstein; for Port Said, Mrs. H. D. Fedoroff and family; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. L. Girard, Mr. Joas Manoel; for London, Mr. C. Caines, Mrs. G. E. Burgoyne and child, and Mr. C. H. Allen; from Kobe, for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson; for Brindisi, Mr. C. Wittman; for London, Messrs. T. Gorton and J. Wolstencroft; from Yokohama, for Port Said, Mr. J. Inglis.

Per *Preussen*, from Hamburg, Capt. C. Abbott, Messrs. Michele Alonzi, Barman, Paul Bauer, H. H. Beers, Bilbrough, Lady Florence Boyle, Mr. Roberto Brando, Miss Carmichael, H. E. Chang Yen Mow, Messrs. Chen Fu Chow, Chen Ho, and Chan Ping, Rev. Daniell, Messrs. Daniels, John Deighton, W. E. Dennis, Detring, A. B. Dewey, C. S. Dewey, Fachiri, Mr. and Mrs. Victorio Favetto, Messrs. Battista Favetto and Fluegel, Rev. F. Francon, Mr. Mauries Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gove and children, Messrs. Goetling and E. A. Grigson, Miss Bertha Hechler, Messrs. H. J. Hewitt and H. J. Highfield, Mr. and Mrs. Horsey, Messrs. Hungsberg, S. Jyesaka, Kastner, Feldweibel Kolberg, Lambert, J. Logan, Mrs. H. J. Logan, Mr. W. E. Lutz, Miss Martin, Mr. Magnani, Miss Matthes, Messrs. Alexander Millar and T. Miyahara, Capt. Carlos Montti, Messrs. Munroe and Molschtrann, Miss Lucy P. Nelson, Mr. C. Niessen, Mrs. S. H. Osborn, Mr. and Mrs. Paderni, Messrs. Pahnke and Verwalter Passolt, Lieut. Plange, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Tissot van Patot, Commandant Ernesto Presbetero, Mr. Quaritsch, Mr. and Mrs. M. Rangel, Messrs. G. Reed and von Rettberg, Mrs. Roby, Messrs. Rose and H. Ross, Miss Ella Rouech, Messrs. G. de Ryckman, Saito, Schaefer, K. Scheffer, C. L. Schulz, H. Swarz, Dr. G. Specka, Miss Spieler, Dr. Victor Storz, Mr. Stresse, Dr. Thomson, Capt. and Mrs. Truppel and children, Dr. T. Tsurumi, Capt. St. Hoffmann Lomatsch, Mr. Elder von Waffenstein, Mr. A. F. Warrack, Miss P. Y. Way, Messrs. von Wedel and Wolf, Mrs. C. H. B. Wood, Mr. Wuefing, and Taotai Yen Fuh.

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